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Near East &
South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Quadripartite Meeting in Libya

Al-Asad, Mubarak Arrive

JN0301123991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1219 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Misratah—President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Misratah at 1230 today on a visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, headed those receiving President Hafiz al-Asad at the airport. Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution leadership, and senior Libyan officials were also present at the airport.

Following the reception ceremony, Col. al-Qadhdhafi accompanied the president to his place of residence. President Hafiz al-Asad is accompanied by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Portraits of President Hafiz al-Asad, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi were displayed at the airport and along the roads. Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his delegation arrived in Misratah in the Libyan Jamahiriyah at 1000 today. Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, headed those receiving President Mubarak. The delegation accompanying President Mubarak comprises Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, head of the President of the Republic's Office; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs.

Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's National Salvation Revolution Command Council, is expected to arrive in Misratah later today to join the tripartite meeting that will be held today. MENA reported that during the meeting relations between Egypt, Syria, Libya, and Sudan, as well as developments in the Gulf, will be discussed. MENA reported that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir has left Khartoum at head of a high-level delegation on a short visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that during the visit Lt. Gen al-Bashir will meet with Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, to discuss a number of issues of concern to the Arab and African regions. The meeting will also discuss Col. al-Qadhdhafi's efforts to achieve peace in southern Sudan and hold talks between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement in order to achieve peace and stop the bloodshed in the south.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Interviewed

LD0301224891 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Interview with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by unidentified correspondents upon Mubarak's arrival at Tripoli Airport on 3 January—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Are there reasons behind the speedy convening of such a conference [words indistinct] or to repel the dangers that engulf the Arab nation and that began with the countdown of these dangers?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Our meetings should really be continuous, even without a crisis; but on this occasion there is a grave crisis facing the nation. We hope from the meeting of the brothers to unify our position and our front. The probabilities are numerous, and naturally they are dangerous. We cannot enter this phase which is full of dangerous probabilities. In my view we must unify our position and unify our front. Whether there be a peaceful or military solution, we should enter as one front; and who knows, a third world war might break out after days. [words indistinct]

Libya and Egypt should be in one trench. They are neighbors; one soil and one people. They must not meet dangers while in separate fronts. This is a serious matter as far as our fate and our future is concerned. This is what I hope will be.

[Correspondent] Is there a specific consultation concerning the daily dialogue that will be taking place as a result of the tripartite meeting?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] In my mind, if we can save the world from a disaster, we will make our effort. In fact, this is not in our hands; it is in Iraq's hands. If we fail in this then [words indistinct]. We should look at ourselves and what our position should be in all eventualities.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, very recently you addressed one of many appeals to President Saddam Husayn to prevent the dangers of the approaching period. Rejection and adherence to this rejection continues. What is Your Excellency's evaluation of this?

[Mubarak] Well, it is regrettable. Prior to this I made an appeal in August because I saw the picture in front of me. From a distance it was a complex picture. Its shape and its expectations were grave. Current circumstances differ from those of 10 or 15 years ago. I made the appeal in the hope that we arrive at or find an excuse for withdrawal to save the area from the evils of war. I made the appeal from all my heart, with extreme sincerity and with honesty and politness, because this is Egypt.

It was met with filthy insults. I cannot describe them. We are not offended inasmuch as one feels sad that these people talk about Islam, they speak of values, they speak of principles, they speak of ethics, and yet they revoke them in a single moment. Actually, we are doing our duty. As the brother colonel just said, the decision, the solution, and the warding off of dangers are in Iraq's hands, in the hands of the Iraqi president. We have done what we had to do.

Afterward it was him who said that if Iraq transgressed against a state, call up your armies and stand against Iraq. Do they forget the words they say. Only very recently the amir of Kuwait was... [changes thought] We are not talking about the amir of Kuwait or this or that person. We are talking about a principle. We are establishing principles. I am not talking about a person, nor does the brother colonel; no one is talking about individuals. We are talking about principles, confidence, and values.

Aggression against a state is not allowed. Had this happened to Iraq, we would have stood against the state that had shown aggression against Iraq. We would also send our forces to defend Iraq. But is it conceivable that an Arab state swallows up another Arab state by armed force, scattering and humiliating its people and killing the innocent? This cannot be. The East and the West are uniting and the world is joining hands, and yet here we are tearing ourselves apart. We are like this: Be different to become noticed. We must do something abnormal to make people look at us.

[Correspondent] I jump to Brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Are you still optimistic about finding a framework for solving this crisis?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is merely a prediction and nothing more. I sense that Iraq might retreat at the last moment. It is merely a feeling. I think Iraq always does things like this.

[Correspondent] The same question to His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

[Mubarak] I said before that we hope that he retreats from his position for the sake of sparing bloodshed and sparing the people of Iraq from the spilling of blood. I do not know if he can see; I do not know if he appreciates the situation. If I were in his place, for the sake of my people and my brothers and sons, I would retreat not only 500 times but 100,000 times to avoid this (?calamity). But they do not want to listen. They are free. We are trying, and people did try many times. On every attempt we were accused of something. Even in the last attempt we said we will stand alongside you, all the brothers will stand beside you. Only we want to avoid war and bloodshed. The mouthpieces then began to pour abuse. Insults do not worry us. Abuse is for those who are bankrupt.

[Correspondent] Thank you, sir. Thank you.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Hold Talks

JN0301184791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1817 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Misratah, 3 Jan (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad held a closed meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at 1330 today.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the developments and effects of the Gulf crisis on both the Arab and international situation.

The meeting lasted for over two hours. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid joined the meeting later.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Visit Plant

LD0301151491 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Misratah, 3 Jan (JANA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who was accompanied by the brother leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi], visited the steel plant at Misratah this afternoon. President Husni Mubarak and the brother leader of the revolution listened to the Libyan Arab engineers in charge of this giant complex on the detailed explanations of the work carried out at this achievement of civilization realized on the land of the first Great Jamahiriyah in history, thanks to the Great al-Fatih [1 September] Revolution.

'Unified Arab Position' Urged

NC0301185791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1836 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Misratah, 3 Jan (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has called for a unified Arab position on the current perilous crisis in the Gulf, saying that he expects Iraq to back down at the last moment to spare the region and the world a devastating catastrophe.

This came in statements Col. al-Qadhdhafi made to the press delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak on his current visit to Misratah, where he is taking part in the quadripartite Egyptian-Libyan-Syrian-Sudanese summit.

Referring to the escalation of the current Gulf crisis, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said: We have to unify our positions and unite our views on whether there will be a peaceful solution or a military one, so that we act as one front.

Al-Qadhdhafi added that a "third world war" may take place in a few days and that Egypt and Libya ought to be in the same trench because we are neighbors, we share the same soil, and we are one people. We have to face danger as one nation, he said.

Concerning the quadripartite meetings in Misratah, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said: We are doing our best to spare the world a catastrophe.

Al-Qadhdhafi added: In the event of failure, matters are not in our hands, but in Iraq's.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Comments

LD0301200991 Tripoli JANA in English 1823 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Misratah, Ay Annar [January] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—[passage omitted] Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hassan al-Bashir gave a statement to JANA following his arrival at the beginning of which he explained that the Arab nation was passing nowadays a critical and decisive moments and was exposed to a great danger.

He said "The Arab people look forward for a move from the leaders of this nation to contain the situation and extinguish the spark of war". He expressed hope that the Misratah meeting would arrive at an initiative acceptable to all parties so that the Arab nation avoids a destructive war.

Lt. Gen al-Bashir expressed gratitude for the initiative from the leader of the revolution to call for such a meeting to hold consultation on the means to make the arab nation avoid the danger that is threatening its existance.

In his statement, he said that the steadfastness and the survival of this nation was linked to its unity "and I highly appreciate the call from the leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that the year 1991 be the year of Arab unity".

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir pointed out that there was no justification for the Arab nation to remain splits states. He said "that history will never have mercy upon its leaders if they did not do their duty to achieve Arab unity".

Concluding his statement, he expressed hope that the unity of the Arabs be achieved especially that the world has become today a place where small entities cannot survive.

Gulf Developments Discussed

JN0301175691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri]

[Text] In their meeting in Libya today, the leaders of Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Sudan have discussed the Gulf developments in light of the exchange of threats of war in the region.

Informed Arab sources told our station that the meeting was held to discuss the possibility of Arab forces assuming the main role of solving the Gulf crisis in exchange for the withdrawal of all other foreign forces from the region, provided that the Arab states assume the responsibility of liberating Kuwait if Iraq refuses to withdraw from that country. They also discussed stopping any Iraqi attacks on any of the other Arab states.

The four leaders discussed the question of Gulf security and the post-settlement phase. President Mubarak proposed that the Gulf states themselves choose the security system suitable to them and reaffirmed that the Gulf states alone have the right to decide the extent of any help sought from forces other than their own national forces.

During the meeting, al-Qadhdhafi stressed the need for fixing a clear date for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad raised the issue of Israel's intervention in the crisis and the Israeli threats to Syrian and Jordanian security.

On another level, al-Qadhdhafi proposed detailed ideas on a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis. Among these is the idea that Egypt and Syria hold contacts with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states while Libya and Sudan hold contacts with Iraq in order to reach agreement on the principles of this solution.

In this regard, President Mubarak said that any positive signs in the Iraqi position would prompt Egypt to exert its efforts to prevent the outbreak of war in the region. Mubarak emphasized his readiness to contribute toward obtaining pledges from the international powers that military force would not be used against it and that the UN-imposed economic sanctions would be canceled.

Foreign Leaders Depart

LD0401114991 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Misuratah, 4 Jan (JANA)—Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in the Republic of Sudan; and Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, left Misuratah last night after a short visit to the Great Jamahiriyah during which they attended the mini Arab summit at the invitation of the brother leader of the revolution. An official send-off ceremony was held for Presidents Mubarak, al-Bashir, and al-Asad, led by the brother leader of the revolution. Staff Major Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, the brothers—secretary and members of the General People's Congress, and secretary and members of the General People's Committee—and a number of officers of the Armed People also took part. After the presidents shook hands with those who came to see them off, they reviewed a guard of honor together with the brother leader of the revolution. The brother leader of the revolution gave Presidents Mubarak, al-Bashir, and al-Asad a fraternal embrace as an expression of the unity of the sons of the Arab nation before the presidents boarded the plane.

Iraqi Arab League Delegate Affirms Right to Post

JN3112181790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Tunis, 31 Dec (INA)—Iraq has affirmed its natural right to remain a member of the Arab League and to hold the post of the Arab League assistant secretary general for information affairs after the reasons that caused a division in the Arab League are removed.

In a press statement issued here today, Hamid 'Alwan al-Juburi, the permanent Iraqi representative at the Arab League, said that the transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo was illegally implemented. He added that this transfer sought to consecrate division in Arab ranks and to serve the U.S.-Zionist scheme.

Al-Juburi said that Cairo is not fit to serve as a neutral headquarters that would create opportunities for enhancing joint action in accordance with the Arab League Charter, now that the Egyptian regime has become embroiled in the conspiracy along with the Arab nation's enemies.

It is to be recalled that the Iraqi employees working at the General Secretariat of the Arab League tendered their resignations after the League's headquarters was illegally moved to Cairo.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Comments on Rumors of Gaza 'State'

JN0301162691 Amman Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Interview via satellite with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Baghdad by Mahmud al-Sharif in the studio; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] There has been talk about the establishment of a separate Palestinian state in Gaza Strip. There has been circulating some news about this. What is your comment on this?

['Arafat] You see, it is only some rumors. Shamir was imagining that he will face pressure when he was going to visit the States, so he was preparing this issue to offer it to President Bush. But there, he did not mention anything concerning that because what happened there, Bush was in need of him to be a part of this military alliance against Iraq. [sentence as heard] So he completely forgot anything concerning Gaza.

[Al-Sharif] Now we are embarking... [changes thought] We are entering now in 1991, and this is the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Palestinian revolution.

['Arafat] You see, there is a decision in the Israeli leadership for more escalation, more massacres, more genocides against our people, against our children, against our women, against our holy Muslim and Christian holy places in Palestine. Imagining that they can push our people and to frighten our people. But they are stupid. As you see, our people have the ability to provocate [as heard] and to challenge, to face this Israeli challenge, and while they increasing their aggression, we are increasing our resistance by all our means.

[Al-Sharif] By all means.

['Arafat] Definite.

[Al-Sharif] I see.

['Arafat] But until now we, as Palestinian leadership, we did not give the decision to use weapons. But they have to understand that patience has limits, (?definite ones).

[Al-Sharif] Mr. President, what message do you have for the Christian people on the occasion of the new year and what messages do you have for the Jews all over the world in the beginning of 1991?

['Arafat] Peace in the land of peace, in the terra sancta, for all of us; for the Christians, for the Muslims, for the Jews.

'Arafat Interviewed Concerning Gulf Crisis

PM0301161691 Paris LE FIGARO in French 2 Jan 91 p 3

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Remi Favret; place and date not given]

[Text] Baghdad—"January 16? It will be just another day. I cannot believe that there is another Nero capable of plunging the world into war and destruction." With his shining bald head, horn-rimmed spectacles, and his revolver in his belt, Yasir 'Arafat was working in a small office in one of the villas which Saddam Husayn has placed at his disposal.

He had placed his legendary black and white al-kufiyah near him, revealing a completely bald head, and was making notes on reports which had been handed to him, with a worried expression on his face. Although he is in Baghdad—his second base after Tunis—on this New Year's eve, he has not come to see in the new year. The PLO leader, faithful to his role as the eternal intermediary between the big Arab powers, thinks he can still work to bring about a negotiated solution to the Gulf crisis.

"You know," he said, "I have been involved in negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait since 1972. I worked in Kuwait as an engineer in the late fifties. I know the princes of the al-Sabah family well. I am a witness in this conflict...."

With two weeks to go before the date set by the United Nations for withdrawal from Kuwait, 'Arafat the witness does not believe in an immediate and rapid war, although he recognizes the danger.

"There are undoubtedly signs," he said. "Those signs bring us closer to war, particularly President Bush's insistence on rejecting any negotiation and dialogue. The

U.S. leaders are talking only of war. This spells disaster not only for the people in this region but also for the whole world. This is not Vietnam, there will not be a guerrilla war limited to the jungle. It will be a brutal conflict during which weapons of mass destruction will be used by both sides and this will happen in an important region in which the oil fields are situated. In addition to the damage caused, that will create economic panic throughout the world."

The scale of the destruction which a war would cause seems to prompt 'Arafat to show cautious optimism: "Nobody will dare." He still believes in a negotiated solution which will emerge automatically under pressure.

'Arafat is delighted by the statements made by Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos who is prepared to attempt an approach to Baghdad on the EEC's behalf: "We appreciate the step taken by the EC, particularly the efforts made by the French and German governments which have tried to avert war from the start and which are acutely aware of the need to solve all the region's problems to establish peace, starting with the Palestinian problem."

The European leaders' determination to first ensure implementation of the UN resolutions on withdrawal from Kuwait before tackling the other regional issues—Mr. Mitterrand reaffirmed that in his New Year's message—strikes 'Arafat as secondary. "A withdrawal from Kuwait can only be discussed during negotiations and not through ultimatums," he said. "Are you talking about UN resolutions to me, Yasir 'Arafat? What about Resolution 242 which mentions the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and which has not been implemented for 23 years? What about Resolution 181 which made provision for the partition of Palestine and which has not been implemented for 43 years? Where are the fleets to ensure their implementation?"'

The PLO leader continued: "It is fine for the U.S. Administration to attach importance to oil for economic reasons, but we attach even more importance to the liberation of our holy lands, both Muslim and Christian. Palestine is more precious to us than oil!"

Since the start of the crisis, Saddam Husayn has defended the Palestinian cause. Suggesting to 'Arafat that Baghdad has staged a recovery operation infuriates him: "Is it propaganda to insist that all the Security Council resolutions be implemented, not just those which suit the United States? Let us start by settling the Palestinian question, by implementing the resolutions which relate to it; that will eliminate one card from the pack and we will then see what remains of the propaganda. Our people are suffering daily massacres by the Israeli occupying forces, by the colonists, and by the armed forces, and nothing is done."

'Arafat had not slept. An Israeli raid on the Fatah bases in Sidon in Lebanon kept him awake making radio contact with the survivors. Even in Baghdad, thanks to sophisticated communications systems which the PLO acquired in Europe, the leader calls the refugee camps and the intifadah committees in Gaza and the West Bank every day.

January 1 marks the 26th anniversary of the first Fatah operation from the Gaza strip. 'Arafat and Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] staged an operation to blow up a pumping station in an Israeli kibbutz. 'Arafat is the only surviving member of the first Palestinian commando group—Abu-Jihad was assassinated in Tunis by the Israelis in 1988; his photograph was in the place of honor above 'Arafat's desk.

Even in the Gulf crisis the enemy for 'Arafat is still Israel. For him it is the same war which is continuing, the same confrontation which has changed its appearance. "Israel is keeping a low profile before the battle," he said, "but when the battle starts, it will play a leading role. This became clear after Yitzhaq Shamir's latest visit to Washington and after the strategic agreement between the United States and Israel. The Israelis are calling for an escalation, and they are participating in it by pushing additional forces into southern Lebanon where they have installed missile bases, and all along the Jordanian border where their armed forces are concentrated."

The link between the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is obvious to 'Arafat, as it is to Saddam Husayn. To demonstrate this, he promptly embarked on a lengthy historical explanation. The Kuwait issue is only a passing episode, he explained, within a broader confrontation directed toward preventing the emergence of a strong Arab power. This confrontation began with the delineation of borders by the colonial powers after World War I....

In an attempt to wear down the Iraqi regime's allies after the war with Iran, the West left Saddam Husayn with an impossible choice: to submit or to launch a sudden strike. "To believe that he could give in was to misjudge him," 'Arafat said. "If Iraq and its 17 million inhabitants endured for eight cars against the great Iran, it was primarily thanks to President Saddam's personality."

The dispute between Kuwait and Iraq is as old as Kuwait itself. 'Arafat blames the stubbornness of the al-Sabah family for many of the troubles experienced by the emirate. As an engineer in Kuwait City in the fifties, he crossed the Iraqi-Kuwait border every day to oversee construction sites. In 1972 the Kuwaitis extended the border northward, quietly gaining a kilometer, which enabled them to exploit the al-Rumaylah oilfield.

When Iran occupied the strategic Faw peninsula in 1986 Saddam Husayn sent 'Arafat to Kuwait City to plead his case before the emir: Iraq needs to deploy its troops on Bubiyan Island in order to protect its southern flank. The emir did not grant his permission for this temporary occupation. After the war 'Arafat continued his mediation: he was the last negotiator to visit Kuwait before the Iraqi tanks' entry on 2 August.

Although Yasir 'Arafat proposed to them a long-term lease, the Kuwaitis refused to lease the islands of Bubiyan and Warbah to Iraq. The PLO leader warned them: "This time Iraq is not kidding. Saddam Husayn has not massed his troops on the border to scare you. He is in earnest. I know what I am talking about. I am no amateur in this field!"

Neither the envoy, al-Jabir, nor the heir apparent, Sa'd, would heed him. 'Arafat suspects that the British and American intelligence services were behind their obstinacy. He saw the crisis coming. What solution does he see to it?

Only one: "The international conference on peace in the Middle East must be held right away!" He grew angry: "You press the Palestinians to negotiate with their enemies, but at the same time you refuse to talk with Iraq. Even worse, by exerting pressures you are preventing the start of negotiations between Iraq and the Arabs. This is another demonstration of the existence of two sets of standards in international law and principles...."

Whether a diplomatic breakthrough in the Gulf crisis comes from the Europeans, the Arabs, or a nonaligned country, the PLO leader believes that it must then be followed up by the United Nations in order to reach a comprehensive settlement. "Mr. Perez de Cuellar must get involved and set to work. Is the United States the head of the United Nations? Bush cannot take the place of the United Nations' institutional leaders. Since the United Nations has concerned itself with the crisis from the outset, it is up to the United Nations to help the world and the Near East to resolve it."

The idea of an international conference on the Middle East—given a new boost by Mikhail Gorbachev and Francois Mitterrand in 1985—has slowly made progress despite U.S. opposition within the Security Council. But if Washington were at last to accept the convening of such a conference, in the knowledge that Israel would not attend it, its impact would be extremely limited.

"Do not seek excuses for rejecting this conference," 'Arafat said. "How can you combat occupation here but tolerate it in Palestine? Why? The world must answer this."

Carefully donning his al-kufiyah, arranging its point rather rakishly, 'Arafat prepared to convey his greetings directly to the Palestinians in the occupied territories on Jordanian television. 'Arafat addressing his people from Baghdad: a provocative symbol for Israel.

After 30 years of travel around the troubled world of Arab politics, 'Arafat is not banking on Saddam Husayn. This option has already cost the PLO a great deal in terms of both international influence and financial resources. The incomes of its permanent staff have decreased. The Palestinian headquarters has had to close several of its offices and newspapers around the world after the grants from Gulf businessmen stopped.

Saddam Husayn has no money either. But he believes in the language of force. After the failure of his overture to Israel two years ago, 'Arafat is also convinced that this is the way to talk to Israel.

Official Confers With USSR's Primakov on Gulf

LD0301181691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] PLO Executive Committee member, conferred with comrade Yevgeniy Primakov, USSR Presidential Council member. They discussed the latest international, Arab, and Palestinian political developments in light of the situation in occupied Palestine and the need to exert international efforts to implement the recent UN Security Council resolution on the protection of the Palestinian people. They also discussed developments in the Gulf crisis as well as the need to solve it peacefully and remove the danger of war from the region. In addition, they viewed the dangers imposed by the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine and its reflection on the region.

Algeria

Unions Protest U.S. Action Against 'Peace Ship'

LD0301145791 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Unions of Algerian workers, women, and youths marched toward the U.S. Embassy in Algiers today protesting the aggression against the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon, which had set out from Algiers for Iraq with a cargo of medicine and milk for Iraqi children. Our colleague Abdelmalek Ben Qasim has recorded reactions for us from representatives of workers' and youth unions, and the National Union of Algerian Women:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified union official] The National Union of Algerian Workers participates in this march, which was called for by the National Union of Algerian Women as an expression of the Algerian workers' condemnation of the savage and inhumane aggression against the vessel Ibn Khaldoon, despite the fact that this vessel is legally authorized by U.N. bodies to carry medicine and food for the children of Iraq. On this occasion, our taking to the streets on this march is a call for peace in the Gulf and for the withdrawal of foreign forces. The National Union of Algerian Workers today will send, within the context of the Maghreb Federation of Trade Unions, a second vessel, Balqis, loaded with medicine and families of trade unionists. It will set sail today in solidarity with the Iraqi people.

[Unidentified women's union official] This march is organized by the National Union of Algerian Women, which had taken part in the project of the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon held in Yemen. The peace ship Ibn Khaldoon put to sea for Basrah on 5 December from the port of Algiers via Tunisia and Libya, and sailed through the Suez Canal after the Egyptian authorities had embarrassed it, and asking about the ship's permission to sail and for the price of $150,000 to be paid by the women on this peace ship. Afterwards, the vessel sailed on toward Iraq and was detained in Omani territorial waters.

Here we would like to say that the Sultanate of Oman has an international obligation, and that it is an Arab country; because we know that in international law, when a vessel is in territorial waters, no other vessel can detain it. The Americans talk about international law. Well, international law has been violated in the case of the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon, because it was carrying medicine and milk and because it had authorization from the UN blockade committee. Therefore, this attitude is one of piracy in the Arabian Sea, and it is unacceptable to us. [end recording]

Resistance Organization Issues Communiques on Gulf

LD0201192991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1802 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 2 Jan (SPA)—The Arab Resistance in Algeria [al-Muqawamah al-Arabiyah fil Jazair] issued two communiques on Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, calling for an unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory and for supporting efforts by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for restoring legitimacy to Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

The Arab Resistance in Algeria further says that any suggestion that does not involve an immediate and complete withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, without any condition or restriction, can only be perfidy and trickery regarding Arab efforts.

The two communiques warn the Iraqi authorities against playing with fire and express the hope that these authorities return to their senses and leave a fully sovereign state.

The communiques conclude by affirming to the fraternal Kuwaiti people that the Arab Resistance in Algeria is following with great interest what is happening on the Arab scene, in particular, and on the international scene, in general, and that it declares its absolute support for restoring legitimacy in Kuwait.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Quadripartite Meeting

NC0401063991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Misratah, Libya, at 0140 this morning, after taking part in the quadripartite summit meeting held there.

Upon arrival, President Mubarak stated that the Misratah summit aimed to exchange views on recent developments in the region and to find a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis to avoid war and destruction. [passage omitted]

Libyan Official Discusses Cooperation With Egypt

PM0401102091 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 4 Jan 91 p 22

[Interview with Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Cooperation With Egypt, by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given: "Minister for Libyan-Egyptian Cooperation Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi Tells AL-HAWADITH: Egyptian Affairs Ministry Will Become Ministry of Unity in the Future!"]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] The recently formed Libyan ministry probably has no equivalent in any of the Arab states in terms of its formation. We mean the existence of a ministry for cooperation with Egypt, another for cooperation with Sudan, and a third for cooperation with the Maghreb union states. If we concentrate on Egypt, what is the significance of this specialization?

[Al-Hijazi] The Egyptian Affairs Ministry included in the recent cabinet formation will in the future become a ministry for unity. Its present task is to follow up cooperation and integration between the two countries in pursuit of complete unity. Since its establishment it has rapidly drafted a number of agreements on integration between the two countries. These agreements came about within the framework of the meetings of the two countries' leaders—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Husni Mubarak—in Marsa Matruh, Tobruk, and Surt. In fact since the establishment of the secretariat (ministry)—and that was not long ago—with God's help and within the context of the desire for integration and cooperation, it has been agreed to conclude 10 accords. This is a step on the road of integration toward our goal: unity between the two countries. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] But do you not believe that the difference between the economic systems could hamper the integration process between the two countries?

[Al-Hijazi] I do not think so. Free trade exists in Libya, as it does in Egypt. Individuals, establishments, distributors, and traders can all take part. Even at the political level I do not think that it will affect the economic integration experiment. We want there to be political integration too, especially since we have allowed all the Arabs to participate in the people's congresses, which have the authority and are the important elements through which higher party positions can be attained. The proof of this is that Dr. Amin Hilmi, an Egyptian national, has become secretary (minister) of light industries. And there are other Arabs who are secretaries in the municipalities and the People's Committees. We would like Libyans to be allowed to join the ruling National [Democratic] Party. That is our wish, the aim being to enrich the political experiment. That would bolster and support it and act as an instrument for the realization of economic and political integration.

['Ajjaj] But the problem of the remittances of the Egyptians who worked in Libya before the estrangement between the countries in the mid-seventies has still not been resolved.

[Al-Hijazi] Measures have been taken to settle that problem. Details of the settlement have been agreed and are approaching completion. There are technical committees whose task is to study each party's commitments. They will complete their work soon.

['Ajjaj] Despite the short time since relations were restored, are you satisfied with what is being achieved?

[Al-Hijazi] We are indeed completely satisfied when we see a transition, an extraordinary economic activity, and a flow of food products and clothes. There are materials required in Egypt such as steel and cement. And there is cooperation among individuals and companies. Some 6,000 people enter and leave via the land borders alone. This is in addition to those who travel via airports and seaports. We hope that we can translate the level of understanding and cooperation between officials into a tangible reality for the masses in both countries.

Somali Ambassador Claims Government in Control

NC0301152191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—Somali Ambassador Abdallah Hasan has praised President Husni Mubarak's concern for achieving stability in Somalia.

At a news conference at the Somali Embassy in Cairo this afternoon, he affirmed that the Somali Government is in complete control of the situation in the country and that the opposition does not control one inch of Somali territory or any government institution. He said that the reports carried by Western news agencies citing Somali opposition sources are groundless.

He added that this does not preclude what he described as some disorderly acts by rebels in the forests and by bandits who acquired weapons from neighboring countries.

He explained that the events in Somalia are not as serious as described by foreign newspapers and news agencies.

Abdallah Hasan expressed his relief that the 300-member Egyptian community in Somalia—which includes teachers, a mission from al-Azhar, doctors, and agricultural experts—has not suffered any casualties.

The Somali ambassador reviewed the events of the past few days. He noted that news about Somalia has featured prominently in numerous newspapers and on local and international radio stations, and referred to armed clashes between the Somali security forces and opposition gunmen. He said the latter have claimed to have seized most of the capital of Mogadishu as well as the radio and television stations. He added that some circles not interested in the good of Somalia have spread these reports.

He went on to say that no one denies that armed clashes occurred in the past between tribesmen who came to the capital to loot and rob and the security forces. When necessary, these forces were assisted by units of the Somali Army in order to maintain security and protect the citizens from these reckless tribal acts that have no political implications.

Abdallah Hasan asserted that the facts will expose the rumors and exaggerations. He added that the stories spread by the rebels and the robber gangs to serve their own purposes are false.

He added that the Somali citizens know that provoking disorder and instability is a long-held goal of certain international and regional forces. He said that it is no coincidence that these events and disturbances have erupted at this particular time, when there is a great deal of fear for the security of the Gulf countries and other Arab countries as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Answering a question on the development of political reforms and the implementation of democracy in Somalia, Abdallah Hasan pointed out that many new factors helped exacerbate the crisis, including the food shortages and the famine Somalia is facing, and these have been exploited by those who control the armed groups. He stressed that the famine is the basic cause of the current riots and disturbances in Somalia, explaining that the Somali Government's appeals to the opposition stem from its desire to safeguard the homeland and the citizens and are not an indication of weakness or a lack of resolve.

The Somali ambassador in Cairo said that three new political parties have appeared in Somalia. They are the Youth Party, the National Unity Party, and the Liberal Party.

The Somali ambassador denied that some Armed Forces personel have joined the rebels. He stressed that no one can force Somali President Said Barre to flee and said there are no bunkers in Somalia where the president would hide. He pointed out, however, that the president has several headquarters, one of which, Avisyuri [placename as received], is near the airport. He also stated that President Barre has not left the presidential palace, which they claim has been reduced to ruins. He said the palace has not been hit by even one bullet, and added that it is an ordinary African palace and is not fortified.

The ambassador explained that the Somali Government is ready for dialogue at any time and any place and has expressed its desire to hold a national reconciliation meeting in Cairo. He pointed out that Egypt is making efforts to bring the views of the opposition factions in Somalia closer together. [sentence as received]

The Somali ambassador asserted that his country has not requested any military assistance from any party. He said Somalia extends military facilities to the United States, but there are no U.S. or other foreign military bases in Somalia.

The ambassador affirmed that there is stability in Mogadishu now and the government is in control of the security situation in the capital and its suburbs. He said that time will prove the truth of this statement despite the flood of rumors and allegations put out by the opposition.

2 Ships Barred From Canal Due to Iraqi Plan

NC0301165591 Paris AFP in English 1423 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Ismailia, Egypt, Jan 3 (AFP)—Two Honduran-registered ships were barred from using the Suez Canal after Egyptian security services received reports suggesting Iraq could be trying to block traffic in the waterway, canal sources said Thursday.

According to the reports, Iraq could be trying to sink cement-laden ships in the Suez Canal to block traffic in the waterway to prevent the resupply of multinational forces deployed against Iraq in the Gulf.

The Flapos and the Pletos have been anchored at Port Said on the Mediterranean for the past three days, the sources said.

Official Denies Ships Barred

NC0301181691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1721 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Port Said, 3 Jan (MENA)—A Port Said official has denied a news agency report that the Suez Canal Authority prevented two Honduran-registered ships carrying cargoes of cement from traversing the canal. He said this report is "groundless."

The official said that the two ships are making "regular trips" from Romania to transport cement and unload it in Port Said's free zone.

He added that the two ships, which have "a cargo capacity of 600 and 800 tons," return to Romania after unloading their cargo via the Mediterranean, not the Suez Canal.

INA alleged today that the Suez Canal Authority had prevented two Honduran-flagged ships carrying cargoes of cement from crossing the canal.

Ghali Confers With Hungarian Ministry Official

NC0401064091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2206 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—A session of Egyptian-Hungarian official talks was held at the Foreign Ministry tonight. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Tamas Katona, Hungarian state secretary for foreign affairs, led the talks. Katona arrived in Cairo yesterday morning on a four-day visit to Egypt.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Ghali explained the course of events in the Gulf and the efforts that Egypt is exerting to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis and thus spare the region the woes of a destructive war.

Dr. Ghali said that Egypt's interest in the Gulf crisis is not diverting its attention from the Palestinian problem. Egypt, he added, is seeking to find a just settlement of the Palestinian problem so as to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Dr. Ghali analyzed the international developments in the post-cold war era and underlined the importance of cooperation among the countries of the south and of dialogue between these countries and those of the north.

The Hungarian official explained the situation in Hungary and underlined his country's desire to improve and consolidate its ties with Egypt in view of the leading and pivotal part that Egypt is playing in all areas.

Following the talks, Dr. Ghali said that the viewpoints of both countries were identical on the issues that were discussed.

Meeting Reportedly Cancelled

LD0301132491 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1300 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] The Egyptian minister of foreign affairs has cancelled his noon meeting with Tamas Katona, state secretary of the foreign ministry, in connection with the Tripoli summit. It was said in Cairo that the minister had departed.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Gulf With French TV

LD0301192391 Tripoli JANA in English 1816 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, Ay-Annar [January] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution announced that the Paris-Dakar rally via Tripoli may carry something for the Libyan Arab Arab-French relations. [sentence as received] He said "This rally creates and carries positive impressions between the two countries".

In a statement to the media team from the French Television Channel 5 accompanying the rally, the leader added that this sport demonstration enables the participants to witness that in Libya there is a civilized friendly people which love peace and others not as reported by the hostile states of an idea about the Libyan Arab people.

In this respect the leader said, "The enemies distorted your image to us, but by your presence amongst us and your crossing of our land, we knew your sporting spirit... they were saying to us those are spies for imperialism but we did not accept such propoganda especially when we got acquainted with you and were sure that such propoganda was a lie".

And on the stance of the leader towards the deadline of 18 Ay-annar regarding the Kuwait crisis, the leader said that war was not necessary. "We consider such war is a kind of madness, because this era should have been not the era of aircraft carriers, missiles and guns and we were hoping that such weapons would end at the end of the 20th century".

The leader asserted to the media team that there exist a possibility to find a solution and to negotiate about the crisis which means war was not a necessity and even the problem itself does not deserve such war.

The leader explained that he was making constant attempts to convince the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait. He pointed out that the pressures he exerted on the Iraqi president produced results by releasing the foreign hostages in Iraq.

In this respect he said, "Maybe my continued pressures on him result in withdrawal... in all circumstances, even from the legal side, the 15th. Of this Ay-Annar month does not mean war but means the begining of another phase allowing the use of force at any moment at any time and in the end the use of force is not necessary to come on 15th. Of this Ay-Annar month and maybe after 1 or 2 or 5 months or even a year after... interpreting the end of the period by the 15th of this month as the beginning of the war is a mad interpretation".

The leader announced that the stance of Great Jamahiriya in case war breaks out would be the same as that of the Arab Maghreb states Union because Libya is a member of this union apart from Libya being a member of the Arab League. [as received] And Libya on the other hand is part of the Arab nation and its stance would be that of the Arab nation.

Responding to a question from the French TV Network 5 whether the leader saw the resolving of the crisis lies in Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the leader answered, "that is what I beleive".

Chadian Delegation Arrives in Tripoli 2 Jan

LD0301095891 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0912 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jan (JANA)—Brothers Hassan Fadoul Kittir, commissioner of planning [and cooperation], and Mohiaddine Salah, commissioner of finance [and equipment] in Chad, and the delegation accompanying them arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Chadian Tribe Delegation

LD0201175291 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] The brother leader today received a delegation from the [Chadian] Toubou tribes in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

King Hassan Addresses Nation

LD0301102191 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0711 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Address to the nation by King Hassan II on 2 January; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Thanks to God and prayers and peace upon the Prophet of God, his kin and companions. My dear people, contrary to what some think, I am not addressing you today to talk to you about what happened in Fes [on 14 December 1990]. I say with all sincerity and self-criticism that I am to a certain extent responsible for what happened in Fes. I am responsible because I gave strict orders to the security forces to do without their weapons in all the cities of Morocco and to leave them in their barracks—the police, the gendarmes, and the reserve forces. Some of them hesitated and said: just so that we could [word indistinct] and fire in the air? I said: even so [no]! They added by saying: even plastic and rubber bullets? I said: no! This is an ordinary day, just like any other day. Whoever wants to strike will strike, and whoever wants to go to his work will do so; the state and the institutions of the state will not stop. What is important is that you do not leave the gatherings and that you guarantee people the right to work.

However, my dear people, as I said before, I am responsible for what took place in Fes because I never thought that after 30 years of interaction, cohabitation, and cohesion I would find a rancor or a discord such as this in any town. What we saw was that officers of the state from the security, police, and reserve forces started to fall victims of their pacifism. It was then that we gave our order for them to use whatever must be used for the legitimate defense of life, not just self-defense but the defense of the lives of citizens, which comes before all else. I am responsible for the protection and comfort, safety, family and livelihood of citizens.

Therefore, we have folded up the Fes case. The Fes incident is not remotely related to what I want to talk to you about. Fes was carried out by a group of criminals and thieves whom the security men have been combatting and pursuing for months in order to prevent them from pushing kif [marijuana], kif products or [other] drugs. They became vindictive, waiting for an opportunity to pounce on people's properties and to do whatever they wished to the security men. Congratulations for their steadfastness, and congratulations to them all, and my prayers for the recovery of those who were seriously injured. [passage omitted]

My dear people, I did not wait for the month of December 1990 to address you and open a dialogue with you concerning the working class, social problems generally, and the problem of unemployment in particular. However, I anticipated events and demands and opened up to you, and what I decided at the time was done with you. Thus, on 8 July last year I told you that I will form a National Council for Youth and the Future. [passage omitted]

When the ministerial committee met all the interlocutors and concluded its mission by submitting a report to us, we decided and told the government that this is a government function, that it is one of the functions entrusted to the executive apparatus, and that it must extend the circle of dialogue and open a new way and program. The government must be ready. The trade union people should talk to the various employers. Praise be to God, the negotiations took place, and those meetings were very productive and fruitful as I was told and heard. [passage omitted]

I found myself facing two problems: The first problem was the size of a hill, and it was to provide comfort for wage earners; the second problem was the size of a mountain, and it was to provide work for the unemployed. [passage omitted]

My dear people, you know more than others, especially when I address you, when I look at you and you look at me, eye to eye and heart to heart, that I would not spare you whatever means we all have. God is the witness that had we had more than we have, I would have burnt the midnight oil so that you could sleep comfortably and wake up happy! However, if anything cannot be achieved in one attempt, some of it will not be achieved at all! Thus, our government's instructions were to lay a general framework for a social charter; a four or five-year social charter. Everyone is aware of the phases of such a framework, and everyone is aware of the paragraphs, clauses, and numbers of the framework, not only as far as wages and social services are concerned. Everyone of us knows that on such a date a dialogue must be opened on this problem so as to arrive at a solution. On such a month of such a year, such and such numbers must be revised so that, God willing, we could conclude during this time period, which may seem long but is in fact short, without any financial or commercial crisis or a crises in hard currency or in our commitments to the International Monetary Fund.

Some have adventurously mentioned unrealistic figures without any objective except to push this country into a position where we find ourselves not keeping our pledges. This makes us go backwards vis-a-vis the steps that we have taken and the sacrifices we have borne.

On the one hand, we must satisfy demands; on the other hand, we must respect commitments. This is not impossible. Therefore, dear people, let us make the following start: First, for 1991, if we introduce a 15 percent rise in wages for peasants and workers, and if, on the social front, we introduce child allowances for the first three children, allowances for sickness, and allowances for pregnant women—this is important—as well as numerous other reforms, then we will achieve the following results: For anyone who is a wage earner and earns money every month, and who is married with at least three children, then the minimum wage in 1991—I do not want to go beyond, because in 1992 we will reexamine this—will be guaranteed. It will be 1,000 riyals a day. I am still counting in riyals; perhaps 1,000 riyals is 50 dirhams, if I am right. I am saying that his daily income of 1,000 riyals a day will be the bare minimum, which used to be not even the minimum industrial salary whether in public service or the public sector. Naturally, if the worker is a bachelor, he will get less, but, then, Almighty God has eased his burden. He is much better off than if his wage is 2,000 riyals a day, because children are indeed the cause of both expected and nonexpected expenses.

We have also issued an order to the government to encourage the trade unions and employers to agree to lay down collective agreements in all domains and at all levels, so that everybody will know where they are heading, with what speed, and in order to attain his objective.

If, dear people, we take this as a platform [changes thought] I do not want to go into figures, even though I have plenty of figures in front of me, but I fear that I myself may go wrong on these figures. We have decided; we have issued an order to our government to enter into a dialogue with trade unions and employers on the basis of the 15 percent rise and allowances, which will have immediate effect. If we take this as a platform, then now we will be able to move toward something higher and more important.

We know that these reforms will be extremely costly to the state budget, to the tune of hundreds of billions. Therefore, we think it necessary to convene an extraordinary session of the parliament to study an amendment law for the 1991 budget. Let everyone know that the cost will be very extensive—hundreds of billions of centimes. [passage omitted]

We are 25 million people and we should not have more than 2.5 million unemployed. We do not want that, and we are not saying that we should be satisfied if we have 10 percent unemployment. We would like to say that we have one or two percent, which is reasonable and possible. However, it would be possible on the condition that there is social [word indistinct]. The condition is that there should be social peace, and constructive and purposeful dialogue.

We have entrusted our council, the council for the youth of the future, which started its work yesterday. The first day of the new year, the holiday, I was personally working with the council's secretary general [words indistinct]. God willing, a large number of those who graduate in March from this big family of mine, who are sensible and qualified, will be employed by next July. There will be between 40,000 and 50,000 graduates. In Morocco now there are between 40,000 and 50,000 degree holders who are unemployed. [passage omitted]

There are many social problems, the most important of which is residential housing. Moroccans are among the people who are most concerned about housing. This is not surprising, because civilized countries which leave their mark on history are the ones which give priority to housing. [passage omitted]

My dear people, [words indistinct] I ask of you four or five years of social peace, social contract. Now we want to engage in a special and personal dialogue with you. God has willed to entrust me with the sacred responsibility for you for 30 years. In two months, according to the Christian calendar, we will have completed 30 years of cohesion and cohabitation. [passage omitted]

In a few months the Saharan issue will be settled. Why has it not been settled yet? My dear people, I do not know who is trying to make you believe that the Saharan issue has been settled. The Saharan issue has not been settled yet. I think that the Security Council will debate the issue from the 15th of this month of maybe later. The Security Council is busy, as we all know, with what is taking place in the beloved Arab east. [passage omitted]

My dear people, what ambitions do I have left? I have only one, and that is to serve and satisfy you, to satisfy your youths, assure your middle aged, and to take care of your aged. Thus, let us board the vehicle of the future, of action, of the social charter and social peace. You know, my dear people, that I never promised you anything that I did not heed. The year 1991 will be a starting point. As far as social peace is concerned, give us a period of four or five years to achieve it. Of course, we are not in a state of war, but when I say peace I mean peace that will be renewed every year. [passage omitted] Finally, do not forget your Sahara! Your soldiers are still in the Sahara. The wall is still standing. Caution and vigilance are still the foremost of duties. The question of the Sahara has not ended, but may be nearing and end. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Meets With Trade Unions

LD2612225590 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The government delegation led by Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki has continued its meetings with various social and economic bodies. Here is a report on today's meeting:

In addition to the government delegation, the Popular Labor Unions led by Mohamed Takiallah Malaynine, the Moroccan Labor Union led by (Hemmi Lahsan), the Moroccan Labor Forces led by (Abdelkadir Tanan), the National Union of Labor in Morocco led by (Lakbani Redad), and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions led by (Maouly Saleh Sennali) attended the meeting. Delegations representing the General Union of Economic Associations in Morocco led by (Abdderahman Simays Bannani), the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry led by (Lahsan Idrisi), the Association of Chambers of Agriculture led by (Sedki Assou), and the Moroccan Federation of Agriculture led by (Ahmed Mansour Rijai) also attended.

The meeting was opened by the prime minister with a statement in which he announced that the current round of talks was the last, following a series of unilateral talks with every body or organization. All the facts needed to take into account the raising of the standard of living of the working class on the one hand, and the required economic balances to maintain the general growth in the country on the other hand, have been gathered. [passage omitted]

We would like to note that at this moment the (?second) meeting between the government delegation, the concerned employees' bodies, the Democratic Confederation of Labor, and the General Union of Moroccan Workers is under way.

Sudan

Al-Bashir To Attend Libya Summit

NC0301100791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jan (MENA)—MENA has learned that 'Umar al- Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution, will arrive in Misratah, Libya, later today to join the tripartite meeting that will be held as soon as al-Bashir and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrive there. During the meeting, the relations between Egypt, Syria, and Libya and the current developments in the Gulf will be discussed.

Departs 3 Jan

EA0301173791 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 3 January (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers, left here this morning for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at the invitation of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to participate in the summit [words indistinct] which includes the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Sudan, Egypt, and Syria, to discuss the Gulf crisis and to arrive at a peaceful solution to the crisis. [passage omitted]

Returns 4 Jan

EA0401122091 Khartoum SUNA in English 0947 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 4th January (SUNA)—Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, returned home morning today from Libya where he has taken part in mini summit conference between Libya, Syria, Egypt and the Sudan. In an arrival statement, Gen al-Bashir said the summit was devoted to the developments in the Gulf crisis and ways for finding a peaceful solution to the crisis, in addition to eventualities of war outbreak. He said the one-day summit has also reviewed the role of each of the concerned states vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis. Gen al-Bashir has added that the summit also reviewed relations between the four countries.

Gen al-Bashir has described the Misratah summit held at the initiative of president [title as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the internationalist leader, as a useful encounter for exchange of view. Gen al-Bashir has meanwhile expressed hope that consultations would continue between Arab leaders in a bid to overcome the current serious stage in the Arab region.

Gen al-Bashir left Misratah late last night and was seen off by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of 1 September Revolution, and Maj 'Abd al-Salam Jalud, member of the revolution. In Misratah, Gen al-Bashir said Arab leaders need to hold such encounters for consultations and to avoid [for] the Arab nation the dangers that surround it.

Gen al-Bashir has thanked President al-Qadhdhafi for the invitation to hold the four-party summit in such critical circumstances being witnessed by the Arab nation. Asked whether 1991 would witness the Arab unity, Gen al-Bashir said it was the hope of the Arabs to see unity (?being) realised. He pinpointed that unity was a strategic goal and that the existence of the Arab nation was dependent on unity. Gen al-Bashir added that small entities have little chances for survival in today's world. He said history would never forgive Arab leaders who fail to observe these goals of unity.

Al-Bashir To Implement Islamic Law Quickly

EA0301131691 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] The chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the council of ministers, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has stated that the new year will see the construction of all administrative, political, and law and order systems. He added that in the coming days steps would be taken to implement the federal system; proclam administrative districts and provinces; and formulate regulations on relations among, and the prerogatives of the districts. Lt. Gen. 'Umar reiterated that the realization of peace was the first among the tasks towards the unification of the internal front.

In his speech celebrating the 35th anniversary of the country's independence, his excellency announced the establishment of a supreme council for wages so that the state can look into the wages of employees and their conformity with living conditions.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir announced that, now that the revolution aims towards the implementation of the federal system, it has become imperative for the revolution to quickly implement the Islamic Shari'a laws in compliance with Allah's clear and patent ordinance, and in compliance with the popular will. He added that he would set forth a consummate timetable, and the appropriate legal and administrative procedure for the Shari'ah.

Al-Bashir Receives Iranian Delegation

EA0301155191 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Jan (SUNA)—Today the Revolution Command Council chairman, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, met the Iranian assistant foreign minister, Mr. Hosein Sheikh-ol-Esam, and his delegation who are currently visiting the country. The delegation conveyed its warm congratulations [words indistinct] the announcement of applying Islamic Shari'a in Sudan and on the (?anniversary) of independence.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir stressed to the Iranian delegation the depth of relations between the two countries. He expressed his hope about uniting the plans of [words indistinct] states to work for the good of Islam and Muslims. He also touched on bilateral relations reviewing the implementation plans for the cooperation agreements concluded between the two countries during Lt. Gen. 'Umar's recent visit to Iran.

Al-Bashir, Envoy Discuss U.S., Food Situation

EA0301154591 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Jan (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the council of ministers, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, received here today Professor Abdallah Ahmad Abdallah, the Sudanese ambassador to the U.S. in the presence of Mr. 'Ali Sahlul, the foreign minister. The meeting discussed the state of Sudanese-American relations in the light of internal and world developments. The meeting also discussed issues related to the expected food requirements, and how to unite the efforts of the state with external efforts, as well as [words indistinct] the international organizations' contribution in meeting these requirements.

It is worth mentioning that Professor Abdallah had returned to the country on a short visit to participate in the special workshop for studying the effects of drought and desertification on food security. The workshop is organized by the planning agency in collaboration with the international institute for research in food (?policies).

Al-Bashir Bans Any Anti-Chad Armed Presence

EA2412160090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1031 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 December (SUNA)—The RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, has pledged that Sudan would no longer, ever be a stage for military activities against the neighbouring Chad. Gen. al-Bashir, in a meeting here yesterday with a delegate for Chadian President Idriss Deby, also promised a complete ban on armed presence against Chad in Sudan's territories. Chad represents the Sudan's security depth in the west and that Chad's stability is an intergral part of Sudan's, said Gen al-Bashir. He asserted that Sudan would spare no efforts for bolstering Chad's relations with its African neighbouring countries.

On the other hand, the state-owned daily "AL-INQADH AL-WATANI" in its editorial Monday [24 December] underscored that the development of the Sudanese-Chadian relations comes and synchronises with Sudan's declaration to set 1990 the year of Africa. The daily pointed out that Sudan's endeavours to back up Chad stem from Sudan's beliefs in principles of good neighbourhood, non-alignment and non-intervention in the neighbouring countries' domestic affairs.

Ex-Housing Minister Jailed for 'Misuse of Power'

EA0301114691 Khartoum SUNA in English 0937 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 2nd January (SUNA)—A former minister for housing has been sentenced to five years imprisonment and fined one million Sudanese pounds for misuse of power in land plots distribution. Muhammad Tahir al-Jaylani, minister for housing in the period 1986-1987 was found guilty for giving away land plots to 35 persons in a preferential treatment, whereas the plots, according to the laws in force should be put to auction. The special court set for his trial said by giving away these land plots, the former minister has deprived the public treasury of over 150 million Sudanese pounds, which would have been the market prices for the said land plots.

'Legitimate Command' Reports on Talks With SPLA

EA0301152591 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Here is an important press announcement read by Brigadier al-Hadi Bushra. [martial music]

[Bushra] Press announcement: Within the framework of cooperation and coordination among the Sudanese Democratic Alliance Forces, which comprise all internal and external Sudanese opposition forces, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] has for the first time held discussions with the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces [word indistinct] inside Sudanese territories from 21 to 23 December 1990.

The discussions involved all issues requiring coordination in the field of political and military work aimed at toppling the regime of the current Islamic dictatorship in Sudan. The discussions also involved the tasks during the transition period which will follow the removal of the present regime, and which will prepare the way for the establishment of democratic rule based on peace, justice, freedom, and balanced progress.

The SPLM side was headed by Colonel Dr. John Garang de Mabior, the SPLM chairman and SPLA commander in chief. Its delegation comprised six top leaders of the SPLM, while the Legitimate Command's delegation was headed by First Lieutenant General Fatih Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces. It also contained two other members.

The meetings (?reviewed) the Sudanese people's legacy of keen interest in unity, peace and freedom as well as the spirit of the past agreements which had prepared a way towards ending the war and [word indistinct].

The following was agreed upon: Emphasis on the principle of the realization of peace, and the convening of a constitutional conference; joint coordination in all spheres aimed at the removal of the regime of the dictators currently ruling Sudan; and the establishment of a democratic system in accordance with what emanated from the articles of the Democratic Alliance charter. The issue of the Armed Forces' POW's who are in the hands of the SPLM was discussed and a number of resolutions, which will be announced in due course, were agreed upon. The continuation of a study concerning the future of the Armed Forces under the aegis of the democratic system [word indistinct] the thing that confirms the nationalist nature of the Armed Forces in compliance with the provisions of the Democratic Alliance charter. It was also agreed that communications would be made through intermittent meetings which would be convened between the representatives of the two sides in order to achieve further coordination and consultations on developments related to the work which will develop in the forthcoming stage.

A spirit of understanding, comradeship and agreement prevailed during the meeting, as did the keen desire to attain just peace in the country, and strong relations with its neighbors, the states of the region, and the international community. The two sides reiterated the Sudanese people's ability to solve their problems by themselves and to transcend all problems, as well as their capacity to build (?the country) on a unique Sudanese consensus. [martial music]

Tunisia

Ennahdha Movement Linked to Demonstration, Arson

LD0401020391 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry stated that a group of not more than 150 individuals tried yesterday evening—Wednesday [2 January]—to demonstrate in the public highway, taking advantage of the people going home from work. This led to a disruption of traffic and caused anxiety among passersby. This group then deliberately attacked some public and private offices and threw molotov cocktails at vehicles and police centers on Bab Soueiga and Charles de Gaulle Avenues.

The same source added that security forces managed to restore order and arrest a number of those who were implicated in the use of arson and sabotage or who were in possession of tools for these purposes. Preliminary investigations established that these people belonged to the so-called Ennahdha Movement.

The source added that the Interior Ministry once again stresses its resolve to apprehend most resolutely and forcefully those who stay outside the law, and places full responsibility for the violence on those who commit the violence or who incite acts of violence.

Kuwait

Information Minister Predicts Iraqi Withdrawal

NC0301183391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Beirut, 3 Jan (WAKH)—Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, Kuwaiti information minister and minister of state for national assembly affairs, has stated that he expects Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to withdraw his forces from Kuwait at any moment.

In an interview to be published in the 4 January issue of the Lebanese magazine AL-RAYAH, al-Ya'qub said that the international and Arab forces are serious about implementing the UN and Arab resolutions on Kuwait.

Rejecting any bargaining over any inch of Kuwaiti territory, al-Ya'qub said: Iraq must withdraw its forces from all Kuwaiti territory. I have a hunch, which is purely my personal feeling, that Iraq may announce its withdrawal at any moment.

Al-Ya'qub stressed that if a withdrawal takes place, the Iraqi president will withdraw from all Kuwaiti territory.

He expressed doubt that a settlement will be reached between Washington and Iraq as a result of negotiations between them.

He said: The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has emphasized the importance of Arab solidarity, which has supported Kuwaiti rights.

The Kuwaiti minister added: The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has escalated and this will in turn increase the Kuwaiti people's determination to remain united and cohesive. It will also increase their faith in their cause and Arabism.

Al-Ya'qub said: The Kuwaiti people have dealt a great blow to the Iraqi president, thanks to their cohesion with their leadership. He added: Saddam Husayn's wager that the Kuwaitis would break ranks has proved an utter failure. The Kuwaiti people, on all levels, have proved that they are the only people in the world to adopt a united stand and reject cooperation with occupation authorities.

Al-Ya'qub stressed that the Kuwaiti people will not forgo their land or their leadership. He said: Never in my life have I seen such Kuwaiti cohesion as I see now. All the people believe in Kuwaiti legality and the Kuwaiti state.

Al-Ya'qub described Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's personality as "aggressive and domineering."

He expressed confidence that the multinational force which arrived in the Gulf in the wake of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait will leave the region in the event the Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait.

Radio 'Talk' Predicts Victory

NC0301194891 Cairo Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1950 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O patient and struggling Kuwaiti people, fate has willed that your voice should rise high and loud from Cairo with the advent of the new year. Your cause has jumped to the forefront of the events of 1990. The liberation of your land, the expulsion of the aggressor, and the return of the legitimate government to Kuwait under the leadership of his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, may God preserve him, will be among the most important events of 1991. It is as if we have a date with destiny between two years. One of them witnessed the peak of tragedy represented by invasion and aggression. The other, God willing, will witness the peak of happiness with the removal of sorrow, the victory of justice, and the forcing of the aggressor to submit to our people's will, our brothers' will, and the whole international community's will because it is the will of peace.

Minister Lauds EEC Efforts To Resolve Crisis

LD0301202591 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1835 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Statement by 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah al-Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs; date not given; from the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program—read by announcer]

[Text] Kuwait follows with interest international moves aimed at putting an end to the blatant Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait and particularly rumours about sending the current EEC president and foreign minister of Luxemburg to Iraq to stress the EEC stance on the occupation of Kuwait.

Starting from its firm belief that the EEC always constitutes an effective force which is pushing the aggressive Iraqi regime to submit to international will, Kuwait at this critical stage would like to emphasize the following:

First, there is no way out whatsoever from the deteriorating situation in the region since the treacherous Iraqi occupation of Kuwait except through forcing the Iraqi regime to completely and unconditionally implement all the UN Security Council resolutions within the period specified by Resolution No. 678.

Second, Kuwait is confident that the EEC movement aimed at emphasizing the unanimous and united EEC stance—which insists on the complete implementation of all the UN Security Council resolutions—should strengthen the international front in its efforts to force the aggressive Iraqi regime to submit to the UN Security Council's resolutions on the occupation of Kuwaiti territory.

Third, it appreciates every international effort to implement the UN Security Council resolutions. The State of Kuwait underlines its firm belief that the Iraqi regime will try to exploit any move, however innocent the motives, to break the international isolation imposed on it and to consecrate its blatant occupation of Kuwait by gaining time, prolonging the occupation, and working to overtake the UN Security Council resolutions. This will weaken the firm international stance which rejects the continued Iraqi occupation and stresses the need to implement international will to liberate Kuwait, achieve its unconditional withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory, and restore legitimacy under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

Amir Receives Greek Defense Minister

LD0301175691 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1652 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 3 Jan (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, today received the Greek defense minister, Mr. Ioannis Varvitsiotis, and an accompanying delegation.

During the meeting the Greek defense minister conveyed to the amir of Kuwait a message from the Greek president.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti defense minister.

Minister Warns of Weakening International Front

NC0301164891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0550 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 2 Jan [as received] (WAKH)—Kuwait has reiterated that there can be no way out of the deteriorating situation in the region in the wake of the treacherous occupation of the State of Kuwait, except by compelling the Iraqi regime to implement all UN Security Council resolutions fully and unconditionally within the period specified by the Council in Resolution 678.

Kuwait expressed appreciation for all the current international efforts to implement the Security Council's resolutions pertaining to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. It warned, however, that the Iraqi regime will seek to exploit any of these efforts to implement these resolutions in order to gain time, weaken stands, and open a breach in the firm international stand against it. Kuwait noted that this stand emphasizes the need to liberate Kuwait, achieve an unconditional withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory, and restore the legitimate government under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

This came in a statement made here today [2 January] by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for Cabinet affairs. He was commenting on reports that the foreign minister of Luxembourg, the current chairman of the EEC, will be sent to Iraq to reassert the EEC's stance on the occupation of Kuwait.

Kuwait also expressed its confidence that the EEC's move to reassert its declared unified stance, which is committed to the full implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions, will contribute to strengthening the international front against the aggressive Iraqi regime in order to force it to comply with all Security Council resolutions regarding the occupation of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Defense Minister Arrives on Visit

LD0301172991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1655 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 3 Jan (SPA)—General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister and defense minister, arrived in Riyadh today on a visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Received by Counterpart

LD0301215591 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz held a closed meeting with His Excellency General Mustafa Talas [Syrian defense minister], during which they discussed bilateral relations.

Doors Opened for Saudi-Czechoslovak Cooperation

LD0301171591 Prague CTK in English 1553 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh Jan 3 (CTK correspondent) - The doors have been opened to Czechoslovakia's economic and financial cooperation with Saudi Arabia, Czechoslovak economic experts, accompanying Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier on his current visit here, have told CTK.

Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Palous commented on the two-day talks of economists with their Saudi partners that an important step had been made on ministerial level and now it depends on Czechoslovak businessmen and on the stability of development in Czechoslovakia whether concrete contacts are established.

Palous quoted Secretary-General Abdallah Yaqub Bishara of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) as having stated at his talks today with Minister Dienstbier that though Czechoslovakia shared in the international force in Saudi Arabia with only a small number of troops, the Gulf countries highly appreciate its participation as it is a symbol of genuine international support for Kuwait and of Iraq's isolation.

Palous quoted Abdallah Bishara as having stated that GCC countries are interested in farming technologies, as well as possibilities to invest in Czechoslovakia and import Czecho-Slovak products capable of competing on the Arab market. The talks on investments involved, for instance, Czechoslovak hotels and its spa facilities which have a good reputation in the region.

Representatives of Czechoslovak banking circles pointed out after their talks here that in particular financial contacts and coopertion will require some time and further complicated negotiations. It must be seen that Saudi Arabia is one of the financial powers which has not had any financial interests in Czechoslovakia so far, President of the Investments Bank Miroslav Tucek stated, adding that Saudi investments are conditional upon their profitability and also on a non-inflationary development in Czechoslovakia.

Yemen

Salih Tours Governorate, Comments on Gulf

EA3012210890 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] This morning brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the presidential council and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, visited the Air and Air Defense Forces base in the Ta'izz Governorate [muhafizah], where he was met by the commanders of the Air and Air Defense Forces and their officers. In an address to the officers and others of the Air Force Base, the chairman of the Presidential Council and commander in chief of the Armed Forces first expressed pleasure at meeting them because they represent our fighters since the union of Yemen. He referred to the steps taken to merge the arms of the Armed Forces and said he was satisfied with the stage this process had reached. He said he was sure that the organizers of the merger of the Armed Forces and security forces would carry out their task responsibly, thus creating real and effective cohesion within this national institution which would serve the nation's strategic interests, namely the unity of the Yemeni Republic, securing the people's gains and guarding the aims of the Yemeni revolution. He stressed the importance of maintaing a high degree of vigilance in fighting all the vestiges of division, wherever they may be.

The chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces referred to developments affecting the Gulf Crisis and their potential security and economic effects on our country. He said: We are near these events so we must be prepared, vigilant, and cautious so we are ready to face up to any possible consequences which might exert adverse effects on the homeland's security and sovereignty. He referred to the principled positions of our country since the Gulf crisis on the national, Islamic, and international levels. He also referred to our principled position regarding the UN Security Council, saying these are positions adopted by virtue of our country's national commitment and its desire for peace to ward off the specter of war in the region.

Colonel Muhammad Dayfallah, commander of the Ta'izz Province [liwa] and a number of officials accompanied the chairman.

Also this morning, the brother chairman laid the foundation stone of the project to asphalt the Janat-Mawiyah road, which is 36 km long and will cost 58 million riyals. He was met by brother Muhsin al-Yusufi, the governor of Ta'izz Province, the director of the roads department, departmental officials, and many citizens.

Elsewhere, brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, accompanied by brothers Salim Salih Muhammad and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, members of the Presidential Council, met the secretariat of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] in Ta'izz Governorate with whom he discussed relations and strengthening cooperation between the YSP and the General People's Council. The brother chairman stressed the importance of strengthening and deepening national unity and loyal cooperation on all positive innovations and transformations our country is witnessing in its unification. He noted that competition between all national forces should be upright for the sake of virtue and excellence and for the sake of Yemen first and foremost.

'Sources' Say Saddam To Respond to Offer 4 Jan

LD0301194891 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources in the Iraqi capital quoted by the EFE news agency have announced that Saddam Husayn's regime will respond to the new U.S. offer tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Officials Said To Reject Pullout Before 15 Jan

JN0301122891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[By Lamis Andoni, on return from a short trip to Iraq]

[Text] On the eve of Friday's European Community (EC) meeting on the Gulf crisis Iraq plans to sit tight resisting pressure to withdraw from Kuwait prior to the U.N. Security Council deadline of Jan. 15.

Baghdad hopes that the EC will move to avert a military confrontation by pressuring Washington into peace negotiations, Iraqi officials and analysts in Baghdad said.

However, Iraq also remains prepared for war if efforts towards a negotiated settlement foundered, they said.

Contrary to speculation, Iraqi officials do not consider a partial withdrawal from Kuwait prior to the deadline as a useful tactic to avert war. They argue that if Iraq held out past the deadline the U.S.-led alliance might break down as Europe and other countries will be reluctant to go to war.

The Iraqi position is based on an assumption that the U.S. was able to secure European support for the Security Council resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq by convincing the Europeans that Iraq would be forced to withdraw before the deadline.

Thus, according to one Iraqi official, once the deadline passes without an Iraqi withdrawal Europe will have to reconsider its position.

Judging from comments by Iraqi officials and according to analysts Iraq considers a withdrawal from Kuwait prior to the deadline and before any negotiations as tantamount to surrender to the U.S.

Therefore, even if European countries do not move far enough to stop a confrontation, Iraq believes that complying with the Security Council deadline is unthinkable and will only encourage the U.S. to avoid negotiations and assert its hegemony in the area.

"It is a war of nerves," said an Iraqi official. "The party which winks first will have to make more concessions. We cannot bow."

From the Iraqi viewpoint, challenging the Security Council deadline and U.S. attempts to fix the dates for a visit by Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad are very relevant to achieve the objective of forcing the U.S. to accept a more balanced relationship with the Arab World and with Iraq.

"If we accept what the U.S. is trying to impose, then what is the point in pressing for Arab sovereignty and for a new and more equal basis for Arab-American relations?" asked the official.

That does not mean, however, that Baghdad is not ready for a compromise over the dates. "The Americans can either accept Jan. 12 (the date proposed by Iraq) or allow the presidents of the two countries to fix the date of the visit of the other country's foreign minister," another senior Iraqi official said. "If President (George) Bush has the right to fix the date and decide the programme for the Iraqi foreign minister in Washington, why can President Saddam (Husayn) not have the same right concerning Baker's visit to Baghdad?" asked the official.

Sources close to the Iraqi government said that Baghdad was ready to accept any date between Jan. 3 and Jan. 12 for Baker's visit to Baghdad. "The issue is not the date per se. We reject the way that the U.S. is insisting on dealing with other countries. The era of colonialism is gone and Washington has to understand that," a well placed official said.

According to Arab and Western diplomats, Baghdad and Washington might accept a compromise date proposed by a third party in the near future.

They disclosed that Germany was involved in a short-lived bid to mediate a compromise date but then Bonn decided that it should wait for the outcome of the Jan. 4 EC ministers' meeting before moving any further.

Notwithstanding the belief that European countries will play a crucial role in averting war and pressuring Washington to negotiate, Iraqi officials concede that none of the countries which tried to mediate departed from the U.S. policy in the Gulf.

"There has not been a serious mediation effort yet," said the senior Iraqi official. "The bottom line of all of the mediation efforts had always been a demand for Iraq's implementation of Security Council resolutions," he said.

The Iraqis consider efforts exerted by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid as the most credible and serious yet. "But the Americans killed it," the official said.

Iraq is critical of Security Council resolutions since it views them as a result of American domination over the Security Council rather than a true expression of international consensus.

Initially the Iraqi government was counting on France to lead the camp of dissent in Europe, especially after President Francois Mitterrand called for an international peace conference to solve all of the problems of the Middle East.

Therefore, Baghdad was careful to release all French nationals at an earlier stage hoping that the step would propel a Paris-led diplomatic campaign for a linkage between the Gulf crisis and a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But the move backfired, according to Western diplomats, as an embarassed Paris had to practically to slow down its diplomacy for fear of discrediting itself within the alliance.

Even some of Iraq's friends in the Arab world believe that Baghdad made a tactical mistake by anticipating that the release of the French nationals was enough to build European pressure on Washington.

"Baghdad should have taken a practical step such as a declaration of intent to leave Kuwait to allow France the chance to pursue its proposals," said a senior Arab diplomat.

But Iraqi officials disagree. "How can we give any concession like that to any European country while none have proved so far their independence from the U.S.?" the senior Iraqi official countered.

The Iraqi official argued that any concessions to a third party could only prompt Washington to pressure for more concessions from Baghdad unless European countries pursued "an independent line" or the U.S. was ready to compromise.

"We are ready to compromise if the U.S. is ready to compromise," the official said.

Iraqis are not clear on what would they consider an American "compromise." But Arab diplomats who have been in touch with the Iraqi leaderhip recently say that Baghdad is ready to accept the Security council resolutions as a basis for negotiations.

"Once again the U.S. is applying two different yardsticks to two problems in the region," a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said after meeting with Iraqi officials earlier this week.

He pointed out while the U.S. had been suggesting that United Nations resolutions serve as a basis for negotiations to solve the Palestinian problem, it is now demanding an unconditional implementation of resolutions regarding Kuwait.

"I believe Iraq is simply asking that the resolutions be used as a reference and as we know when negotiations start the parties involved decide which and how far these resolutions are implemented," he said.

'Sources' on French Plan, Baker's Baghdad Visit

JN2912115390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Dec 90 p 1

[By the "Political Editor"]

[Text] European diplomatic sources have confirmed that an Iraqi envoy is currently in Paris to discuss the procedural details of a French initiative that is expected to be announced within the first week of next month. In the meantime, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received a Soviet delegation led by Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Igor Belousov. The sources, which spoke about the anticipated French initiative could not confirm whether there is coordination between Paris and Moscow so as to be able to speculate that it will be a joint French-Soviet initiative. The European sources emphasized, however, that the channels of secret dialogue between Iraq and the rest of the countries participating in the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf have not been closed.

The U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad is holding continuous contacts with the Iraqi Foreign Ministry under the pressure of a U.S. conviction that war has become a very costly option for the United States. Accordingly, the search for other peaceful options enjoys the support of numerous voices inside and outside the U.S. Administration.

In this regard, the European sources yesterday reaffirmed that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will arrive in Baghdad on 9 January and that the previous information about this was correct despite last week's U.S. denial.

According to the European information, contacts are being held on several levels between the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula states and Iraq. These contacts, which started some time ago, will be reactivated and expanded following the recent Gulf Cooperation Council summit.

'Official Source' Denies Reports of Secret Talks

JN0301164691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1623 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—An official source at the Foreign Ministry this evening denied press reports published by REUTER, citing a French paper today that Iraq has agreed in principle to withdraw from Kuwait during secret talks held in Geneva and Vienna. In a statement to INA, the source said that these reports are groundless and that there are no talks of any kind as reported by the abovementioned news agency.

Source Says Nakasone Peace Plan Report 'Untrue'

JN0401085691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0828 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—An official Iraqi source has denied an AFP report citing the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI today that former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone recently proposed to President Saddam Husayn a plan to settle the Gulf crisis and that his excellency asked Nakasone to present it to the United States. The source told INA that what the Japanese newspaper published is untrue, part and parcel.

The source said that Iraq, through its leader Saddam Husayn, has reiterated its call for solving all issues in the region through the historical initiative presented on 12 August. This initiative is the key to resolving all problems in the region, particularly the Palestine question.

Nakasone paid a visit to Iraq last November.

Intention to Move Government From Baghdad Denied

JN0401140091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1342 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—The INA political affairs editor has denied Western news media reports on Iraq's intention to move the government administration from Baghdad to another governorate. The editor described these reports as ridiculous and nonsense. He said that Baghdad will continue as it has always been—lofty, dear, and protected by its brave men under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, the capital of peace and victory.

The AFP quoted THE NEW YORK TIMES today as saying that the Iraqi authorities informed diplomatic missions this week of their intention to move the government administration from Baghdad to the city of al-Ramadi before the end of 15 January.

Paper Says 'Adnan-2 One of 'Many Surprises'

JN0401121191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH states that when Iraq opted for confrontation, it knew what confrontation it was waging, why it carried the name the "crucial battle," how many heads behind the evil ones and the petty agents would be crushed, and which Arab and Islamic holy places would be liberated no matter the sacrifices. In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Iraq's courage does not stop at announcing high readiness to confront all evil ones, the invaders of the land of the Arabs and their holy places in Mecca, al-Madinah, and Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem]. Iraq's courage extends to far-off dimensions, starting off by stirring up the soul of man and releasing all his potential toward the liberation of the holy places. [passage omitted]

The paper says that Iraq still has many surprises. It has that which affirms the sincere and determined will to wipe out the American, Atlantic, and Zionist invasion forces and to cut the heads of thousands after thousands when Bush leads them to the adventure of aggression.

The paper says: Yes, 'Adnan-2 is one of the Iraqi surprises produced thanks to the instructions of the leader of Iraq, Saddam Husayn, and the gathering of believers. It is the offering from the brain of the Iraqi mujahidin and the product of the will of Iraq and its determination to achieve firm victory no matter what Bush deploys in the region in terms of troops and means of aggression.

The paper declares that the slogan of "No Retreat: The Believer Is Advancing" raised by Saddam Husayn in the name of the faithful gathering is a slogan that has substantial physical weight in addition to spiritual and moral weight. Among the components of this physical weight are the higher scientific and technological achievements and the surprises that Iraq keeps.

'Adnan-2 Test Means 'Failure' of Blockade

JN0401115991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that Iraq's announcement of the new scientific achievement—the successful testing of the 'Adnan-2 early warning aircraft—confirms what Iraq has repeatedly said: that any attempt to besiege it or strike it economically, militarily, or scientifically is completely hopeless and doomed to failure.

In its editorial today, the paper says Iraq's insistence on obtaining the keys to advanced technology, which some big powers are monopolizing to serve their global interests, shows part of the country's inclination toward emphasizing our unlimited independent capabilities in the various scientific fields.

The achievements of the strugglers of military industrialization over the past years, says the paper, added to the military and strategic power of Iraq and the Arab nation and proved that they were by no means less important than the achievements of the developed countries—if not surpassing them in some important aspects.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Iraqis' joy at this splendid scientific achievement, which adds important strength to the vigilant eyes protecting the skies of the homeland, and their unlimited enthusiasm as they prepare to crush the arrogance of the aggressors, the deviants, and the hypocrites on our southern borders, reflect a unique state of psychological, moral, and material interaction, outmatching other familiar instances of readiness and progress.

The paper concludes by stressing that the Iraqis and Arabs in our big homeland are living bright days full of pride and dignity. The day before yesterday [Wednesday] was one of those bright days.

Ambassador to Belgium Calls for EC Peace Plan

AU0301133091 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1200 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Iraq has called upon the European Community to take the initiative for peace in the Gulf. Iraqi Ambassador to Belgium (Haydar) said before journalists in Brussels today that he hoped that at their meeting in Luxembourg tomorrow the EC foreign ministers would decide to take such an initiative. The diplomat deplored the statement made by Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos that if he were to travel to Baghdad, he would only expound the EC's position. The Iraqi ambassador said that if this were the goal, the EC had better not send anyone.

Iraqi Defense Line Around Kuwait Described

AU3012191590 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1600 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Roland Machatschke report]

[Excerpt] Since 2 August, the day Iraq invaded Kuwait, Iraq has been installing equipment along the 180-km-long border between the emirate and Saudi Arabia to fend off an attack by the allied troops. If U.S., British, and Saudi Arabian units should try to liberate Kuwait by land, they will first be confronted with a two- to four-meter-high sand wall. It has been built in such a way that tanks expose their less protected bottom side when trying to climb the wall and their turret, which is less armored on the upper side, when rolling down the other side of the wall. Behind the sand wall, an antitank ditch, up to 20 meters wide and seven meters deep, has been dug. Oil can be pumped into this ditch, which can be set on fire, if necessary. At a distance of 500 to 1,500 meters, another obstacle has been built: Barbed wire entanglements followed by mine fields. The Iraqi defense line is completed by Soviet T-55 tanks which are buried in such a way that only the turrets are visible above the sand walls. The tanks are manned by 12 infantry divisions. [passage omitted]

Bush's Hopes of Concessions 'Lying in Tatters'

JN0301131091 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 3, INA—The Iraqi English-languague daily, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER, said on Thursday that U.S. President George Bush was seeing his Gulf plans running into more miscalculated hurdles as the Gulf events moved towards a climatic phase.

"U.S. allies look more of a worry to Bush and the prospects of a war are getting increasingly unacceptable as the world moves closer to January 15, the deadline of the U.S.-architected U.N. war resolution.

Commenting on Bush's hectic flurry of activity with his top security advisers and telephone calls with close U.S. allies as well as his planned meeting with Republican and Democratic Congressional leaders, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said Bush did not expect things to be as they are now at the turn of the year.

"His hopes of wresting an Iraqi concession and the high-noted demand for an unconditional withdrawal are now lying in tatters," the paper added.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said that with only less than a fortnight to the war deadline, Bush looked beleagured, embattled and out of shape, while President Saddam Husayn looked confident, resolved and unshaken as he had appeared during his New Year visit to the war front.

"The visit added new and crucial evidence of resolve to those who are awaiting for any sign of complacency in Iraq's position. The president sounded more determined and confident than ever as Iraq enters into 1991 facing unprecedented massing of troops which is mainly meant to occupy the Gulf oilfields and to secure an uninterrupted flow of Gulf oil," the daily pointed out.

Paper Calls on Bush To Abandon War Option

JN0401110791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH asserts that Bush's only remaining option to emerge from the deadly impasse hanging around his neck, lies—before anything else—in declaring that he will relinquish the option of war, and in reviewing all measures taken and planned to serve this approach. In an article today under the headline "Bush's Deadlock," the paper says that the decision Bush should take to renounce war, gain credibility, and set aside maneuvering and deception, is to quickly withdraw American and Atlantic troops from the Arab region and to stop the international piracy and comprehensive blockade on Iraq. The paper adds: Otherwise, the spark of war might flare up at any moment.

The paper notes that the opposition to war inside the United States is escalating and expanding; many voices are calling on Bush to abandon adventurism and to stop his policy to move the Gulf crisis toward war. Peace has become the first demand of the American people and a big concern that arouses their fear of war.

The paper says that the most significant development during the past few days was the way the popular and religious celebrations on the new year turned into mammoth demonstrations demanding that the U.S. Administration completely give up the idea of war against Iraq and search for diplomatic solutions.

The paper adds that a large group of major American companies joined the movement of those rejecting war and Bush's risky and hasty policies. Twenty major American companies addressed an open letter to President Bush asking him to stand against war and to follow diplomatic channels to find a solution to the Gulf Crisis.

AL-THAWRAH says: In light of these circumstances and growing public rejection of the war in the United States, Europe, and many countries, the impasse facing Bush and his aggressive, risky, and shortsighted policies has further exacerbated.

The paper says that successive and changing facts and events have not only shown Bush's failure to propagate the option of war among the American people, but also among his European allies. Thus, the U.S. Administration has been disappointed in the possibility of peddling aggression against Iraq under the false pretext of international legitimacy or his boasting that Americans will go with him to war en masse.

Defense Paper Says Nation Holds 'Olive Branch'

JN0101122791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that Iraq's desire for peace is genuine, firm, and based on an international and humanitarian responsibility.

In its editorial today, the paper, the mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, adds: Iraq has spared no effort to achieve this noble desire out of its principled belief that peace is a natural humanitarian state of affairs, while war is an exception to be avoided as much as possible.

The paper expresses confidence that future developments in the Gulf crisis will determine the fate of peace or war and the repercussions of each of them on the whole world. It says: Iraq's hand, which is always extended in peace, is still holding the olive branch in front of the saber rattling, the objective being to wake up Bush and the suspect coalition against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH has once again drawn attention to President Saddam Husayn's 12 August peace initiative. It adds that Iraq has done its utmost for the sake of honorable and just peace, and that anything other than this falls within the framework of concessions and capitulation, which Iraq rejects. It is otherwise: Iraq prefers to wage the battle to ascertain its national rights, the rights of the Arab nation to sovereignty over its land, and the rights of its people to their wealth from the Gulf to the Ocean.

The paper stresses Iraq's rejection of partial solutions proposed within the United States' selective policy, which ignores the Palestinian people's suffering because of the practices of the Zionist occupiers. It says: Our slogan, for the sake of which we will sacrifice our blood, is that Palestine is first and the issues produced by the Gulf crisis come second.

The Defense Ministry paper draws attention to the fact that the Iraqi Army is ready to deter any American attack. It says that the crucial battle will spare no corner in which the invaders may exist or any den of the evildoers in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], and other areas.

Alliance Warned of Attacks on Interests Worldwide

JN3012132290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi papers published today have threatened the administrations of the imperialist Zionist alliance against Iraq that all their interests and centers throughout the world will become targets as part of the deterrence and confrontation. The papers threatened that the confrontation would not be restricted to the battlefield.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH affirms in its editorial today that the Iraqis' belief in their victory and their Arab and Islamic heritage stems from their high readiness to use their material and human potentials, whether the known or unknown ones, against the forces of evil and tyranny if they try to practice their aggression against Iraq.

The newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, warns Bush and his allies against involvement in any aggression that could turn the region into a constantly erupting volcano after Iraq's response, which will be devastating.

AL-QADISIYAH says: Our knowledge of our potentials, the real aspirations of our Arab people to solve all their pending issues, and the Muslim people's rejection of the Zionist American occupation of their holy shrines, makes us realize that victory is coming with God's help and none among the arrogant people and specialists in terrorism, crime, and conspiracy in the world will be able to stop it.

It adds: While declaring our capability to defeat the forces of Bush and his allies if the hour of battle strikes, at the same time we declare to the whole world that the U.S. policy, which has frightened them and forced them to live under the law of the jungle, will not be able to move one step toward the right path after it has pushed its people and those of other countries into a huge furnace which will put an end to them.

It emphasizes that this is what we are determined to do to rid the world of this dirty, conspiratorial, and hypocritical group in the White House which is trying to play the role of policeman over a civilized world that has rejected and continues to reject Bush's foolhardy logic, which does not take any human rights or divine laws into consideration.

The paper notes that the greater part of Iraq's rights and firm stands come from its ability to possess the requirements of victory, which has become certain, as expressed through the requirements and aspirations of a people whose civilization goes back six thousand years, while they confront the most dangerous and largest vicious conspiracy targetting their pan-Arab belonging and abilities to control the future.

It affirms that the constants adhered to in Iraq's rise and the course it took on the side of pan-Arabism and humanity affirmed to the whole world that Iraq wants peace and is expressing this desire. This has urged all the good and peace-loving forces in the world to stand in Iraq's trench and reject the American logic of war which Bush and his agents are delighted with.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, affirms that the vital interests of the United States and its institutions throughout the globe will all become military targets which the fedayeen of the gathering of believers will attack with the fire of justice and capability.

In its editorial, it mocks some of the precautions taken by the Bush Administration to protect its interests in some places and said that the U.S. interests and hotbeds of conspiracy and spying will not be spared from the wrath of the Arabs and Muslims.

It stressed that hundreds of thousands of fedayeen are ready to deal their strong blows to where it hurts the alliance of evil and aggression most. It affirmed that one of the foremost tasks of the Arab and Muslim strugglers [mujahidin] is to target the U.S. forces at their starting points and during successive steps.

AL-THAWRAH refers to the linkage between the Palestine and the Gulf causes in the complete struggle of the Arab nation against the forces of imperialist, colonialist, and Zionist occupation.

It says that the people of Palestine did not set up a barrier between their battle against the usurping Zionist enemy and the crucial battle which will be sufficient to liberate them and regain their land and holy shrines from the filth of the occupation.

It draws attention to the fact that the Palestinian strugglers are today standing in the front trench to perform their role against the U.S. and Atlantic forces through ways and means that they dictate.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ rejects the U.S. allegations of concern over peace, human rights, and international legitimacy. It says that Washington is supporting the most backward and retarded regimes in the Third World at a time when it claims to have fought two world wars so that freedom would prevail throughout the world and so that fascist and dictator forces would be defeated.

It affirms in its editorial that the Americans have continued to ignite small and large wars ever since World War II ended to realize their strategy of controlling the most vital locations and gateways in this world and every bit of national resources, the foremost of which is Arabian oil.

It goes on to say that we appreciate the religious and humanitarian responsibility toward peace, security, and stability in the region and world but without forfeiting our national, pan-Arab and human rights and our vanguard role in liberating Palestine. This is how we understand true peace.

Paper Cited on U.S.-Saudi Alliance

JN0301121691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—The nation is all set to attack the dens of evil at the moment it will decide, says the newspaper AL-JUMHURIAH.

In an article today, the paper says the Americans were not satisfied with only invading the Arabian Peninsula to occupy oil sources and protect the Zionist entity; they began to absorb the Arab wealth seized by the spoiled rulers who paved the way for the foreign invasion.

The paper adds: The conduct of the betrayer of the two holy mosques is the first of its kind in history: The party whose territory is occupied is paying the cost of the invasion. However, the Americans are not satisfied with the tributes they are receiving; they are asking for more.

The paper says whenever an Arab official visited the Arab traitors asking for assistance for the Palestinian revolution and for the frontline states, these traitors claimed budget deficit. They would not pay the money that would enable those countries to stand fast in the face of the Zionist forces.

The paper concludes that the tributes which the Americans and their allies are imposing on this humiliated ruler or that deposed wealthy ruler will do them no good because the nation is ready to attack the dens of evil at the moment it will decide.

Saddam Delivers Speech To Fatah Delegation

JN2312085690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2150 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has declared that the Arab nation has never been a minor element in humanity but has always been a major one, and that when it has the sound will and the firm determination to play its pan-Arab and national role, it often takes a more general humanitarian direction.

During his reception of a delegation of the Fatah Movement Foreign Relations Bureau led by Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee and official in charge of the bureau, his excellency said that a duel in this sense will naturally be based on linkage between the regional and the national, not in a transitory way, but objectively, and in terms of principles. We wanted it to take place now to offer sacrifices that will please the nation and show the nation's mettle and allow the nation to emerge faithful and respectful of, and respected by the people. [passage omitted]

His excellency said that the prelude of the battle is not only a part, but that Iraq is presenting the issues of the whole Arab nation on this occasion. So when the gates of heaven open up for us, we have to call on God, the Almighty, and ask him to help us.

His excellency recalled his speech last February in Amman. He said: We expressed our opinion clearly in Amman. We said that the United States will be a country that one will not be able to fight and that this is a danger to the Arabs and the world that we are working to ward off. We said then that it wants to control the oil and that we are also working against this. We also talked about the Zionist emigration to Palestine and that Palestine must be liberated.

His excellency recalled his February speech regarding the expected behavior of the United States. We asked then, will the United States remember God and thank him for becoming the single, number one superpower in the world and then behave in a way that makes it influential without trying to hegemonize? Or will it become conceited and lose its balance? We also said that all the analyses and evidence indicate that the United States will suffer from conceit and lose balance.

His excellency the president said that Arab money is stored in banks and projects in the West rather than invested in the Arab world to make the Arabs feel prosperous at a time when many Arab countries are suffering from starvation and where corruption is widespread throughout.

His excellency added that the daily killing of the Palestinian people must end. The hunger that makes people lose their dignity must also be terminated. The corruption of the multi-millions that havW wealth of l???e Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and official the Bureau.

Ramadan Receives Delegation

JN2412160290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1513 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has received a delegation from the Fatah Movement's Foreign Relations Bureau, headed by Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and official in charge of the Bureau.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that as far as the Iraqi leadership and people are concerned, the Palestinian people's cause was and still is the central Arab cause, because it lives in their consciences, and it is high time that Palestine be liberated from the filth of the Zionist occupiers.

The first deputy prime minister hailed the Palestinian Arab people's valiant intifadah and the stands taken by the heroes of the revolution of the stones. He said those revolutionaries who reject occupation and subservience represent the true Arab, who fights to defend his homeland's sovereignty and his nation's honor and dignity.

Hani al-Hasan highly praised President Saddam Husayn's responsible pan-Arab stands and said history will record for his excellency his courageous, valiant stand, which has restored to the Arabs their natural place among the nations and embodied their ability to confront the forces of tyranny and occupation.

The official in charge of the Fatah movement's Foreign Relations Bureau stressed the Arab and Muslim masses' support to Iraq in its confrontation of the forces of tyranny and aggression to liberate the sacred places in Palestine and Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Military Industry Minister Meets USSR's Belousov

JN2712181790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister, met today with Igor Belousov, USSR deputy prime minister, and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed the relations of cooperation between the two countries in the economic areas and ways of developing them.

Husayn Kamil Hasan emphasized the importance of enhancing mutual cooperation in the interest of the peoples of the two countries.

Igor Belousov, for his part, welcomed Iraq's decision to allow Soviet experts either to stay or leave at their own choosing. He said this decision received the welcome and understanding of the Soviet people, because it shows the strong ties of friendship between the two countries.

Trade Minister Meets Soviet Petroleum Minister

JN2812073090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2220 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec 90—Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade and head of the Iraqi side to the joint Iraqi-Soviet committee for economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperation, met today with Leonid Ivanovich Filiminov, Soviet minister of petroleum and gas industry and head of the Soviet side to the joint committee.

They discussed economic and commercial cooperation relations between the two countries and how they could be developed to serve the interests of both countries. They also discussed preparations for the joint committee meetings and the subjects that would be discussed within the future program to improve and the cooperation ties.

The meeting was attended by Vladimir Marbnov, Soviet deputy foreign relations minister [name and title as received].

Speaker Discusses Ties With Soviet Envoy

JN3112130490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received Viktor Posuvalyuk, Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

During the meeting they discussed relations between the Iraq and the Soviet Union in the service the peoples of the two friendly countries.

Soviet Parliamentary Delegation Meets With 'Aziz

JN0301095991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning received the Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by Rizoali Odzhiyev, member of the Supreme Soviet and head of the committee for the affairs of soldiers-internationalists and his delegation, which comprises Ruslan Aushev and Aleksandr Kolodeznikov, Supreme Soviet deputies and members of the committee.

Views on the latest developments in the Arab region were exchanged during the meeting.

Mr. 'Aziz stressed Iraq's firm position, which is based on President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, and which calls for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peaceful solution to all integrated problems of the region, especially the question of the Palestinian Arab people.

He also stressed Iraq's eagerness to maintain the historical friendship between Iraq and the Soviet Union and its eagerness that the deputies of the Soviet people should understand the truth about the situation in the region and the need for achieving lasting and comprehensive peace there.

Mr. 'Aziz also stressed that the policy pursued by the United States is not aimed at defending the international law and the UN Charter as the United States claims. On the other hand, it is aimed at serving U.S. imperialist interests in the region. This, he said, dictates that friendly countries distance themselves from this aggressive policy and adopt the policy of right, justice, and peace.

Confers With Hasan

JN0301201391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, met this evening with the Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Rizoali Odzhiyev, member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and deputy chairman of the Soldiers-Internationalists Committee. They discussed, during the meeting, the existing cooperation between Iraq and the USSR; they also exchanged opinions on issues of the region.

The minister of industry and military industrialization said that leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative is the best solution to the problems in the region.

The member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and deputy chairman of the Soldiers-Internationalists Committee noted the importance of comprehensive dialogue and the adherence to peace as the way to tackle the problems in the region.

The meeting was attended by the senior under secretary of the Industry and Military Industrialization Ministry and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Soviet Against Aggression

JN0401121891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—Mr. Rizoali Odzhiyev, member of the Supreme Soviet, and deputy chief of the committee for the affairs of soldiers-internationalists, has stressed that the USSR's Congress of People's Deputies is against war and any military aggression targeting the region.

In a statement to the Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today, he added: We will act to foil the U.S. policy of aggression because we are concerned about our principled friendship with Iraq.

Mr. Rizoali described his meeting with President Saddam Husayn as a valuable opportunity, saying that his excellency acquainted him with developments in the Arab region and ways to find peaceful solutions.

He said his meetings with Iraqi leaders revealed many facts about the nature of the situation in the Middle East. This, he added, dictates that we make additional efforts to prevent a military aggression and to address the Middle East issues peacefully and in accordance with their importance.

He stressed the need to solve the Palestine question, being the first problem in the region.

French Parliamentary Delegation Arrives 3 Jan

JN0301143791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—Michel Vauzelle, president of the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission and member of the French Parliament, arrived in Baghdad at noon today leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. Vauzelle expressed his pleasure at visiting Iraq, a country of ancient civilizations. In a statement to INA, he said that he will meet, during the visit, with Iraqi officials to discuss developments in the Arab region. He affirmed the need to resolve all issues in the region peacefully.

Meets With 'Aziz

JN0301205191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received this evening Michel Vauzelle, president of the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission. They discussed, during the meeting, the situation in the region.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister reiterated Iraq's firm and principled position calling for tackling the issues in the region, particularly the Palestine question on the basis of justice and fairness through dialogue and peaceful means.

The meeting was attended by the senior under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, the chief of the First Political Desk, and the French chargé d'affaires in Baghdad.

Stresses Palestine Question

JN0401143191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—Mr. Michel Vauzelle, president of the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission, has stressed the importance of the linkage among all Middle Eastern issues and the need to find solutions to them all.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today, Mr. Vauzelle said: We must all work to resolve the Gulf crisis through peaceful means. The Palestine question is an important issue and constitutes a principal factor for stability in the Middle East.

He said: War is the greatest danger facing the region and the world. Therefore, we must all work to avert it and proceed on the path of peace.

Ramadan Says Leadership Seeks Peace in Region

JN0301180591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1703 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and first deputy prime minister, received at noon today a delegation from the Society of the Middle East Children's Alliance led by Mrs. Barbara Lubuni [name as received], chairwoman of the society.

The RCC member reviewed, during the meeting, the hostile American policy against Iraq, and the sanctions imposed at the behest of America five months before on 2 August. This confirms the falseness of its claims to defend human rights while depriving 18 million Iraqis of medicine, food, and milk.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the Iraqi leadership is concerned to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region so as to continue the march of progress and construction and to achieve prosperity for the sons of Iraq so they can enjoy their sovereignty and freedom without subservience and exploitation. He noted that the illegitimate and immoral American resolutions will increase the determination of Iraqi children, women, and men, and will unite them to defend their rights and sovereignty regardless of the sacrifices.

The members of the Middle East Children's Society said that the blockade resolutions against Iraq are illegal and illegitimate. They praised the high spirit of the Iraqis and their efforts to break the blockade by depending on their domestic potentials and investing their abundant resources. They said that they will continue their efforts in America to achieve peace and avert the dangers of war from the region.

Ramadan Says European Interests Hurt by U.S.

JN0301205791 Baghdad INA in English 1950 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 3, (INA)—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister today received visiting here former member of the European Parliament Jeff Burges. [name as received]

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan said achieving peace in the region and establishing positive relations with the Arabs realize the interests of the people in Europe and the world and pointed out that these interests would be jeopardized by the war policy engineered by the United States for realizing its purposes in imposing domination over the oil resources and consequently on Europe and the world.

Mr. Ramadan added that peace calls and sincere efforts in the world would triumph over the policy of war and threats.

Turkish Welfare Party Delegation Arrives on Visit

JN2712212290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1857 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA)—A delegation of the Turkish Welfare Party led by Uguzkhan Asil Turk [name as received], the party's secretary general, arrived here today on a visit of several days to Iraq.

Uguzkhan Asil Turk expressed pleasure over the visit. In a statement to INA, he added that his delegation will hold during the visit talks with officials of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to exchange opinions and views on current developments in the Arab region.

The Turkish official lauded the peace initiative announced by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on 12 August and termed it a valuable initiative meant to resolve all regional problems and bring about peace in the region. He affirmed the Turkish people's rejection of the war policy and their call for the establishment of peace in the region.

Confers With Jasim

JN2812082890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and official in charge of the Command's Foreign Relations Bureau, has said the presence of U.S. troops and their allies in the sacred Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] has aroused the feelings of the Arab and Muslim nation by their inhumane and unethical conduct, which confirm their disregard of the Muslims and their sacred places.

During a meeting today with a delegation from the Turkish Welfare Party led by Secretary General Uguzkhan Asil Turk, comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, said that Iraq under the wise and courageous leadership of President Saddam Husayn, and supported by the Arabs and Muslims and all honorable people in the world, is fully prepared to face the invading U.S. troops and their allies if they were tempted to choose the path of war as a means to resolve the crisis in the region.

He also stressed the high readiness of the Arab nation and its struggling masses to defend their legitimate national interests against the imperialist and Zionist threats to strike at Iraq, the Arabs' fortress and the symbol of their pride and glory in the face of the evil U.S. schemes.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim underscored the ability of our victorious Armed Forces, which are standing at the ready to defend the homeland and its sacred soil against the invading U.S. troops and their allies. He said any foolish act by the United States will face humiliation and failure at the hands of the valiant Iraqi people and their Armed Forces, whose courage in war is known by the invading Americans and their allies.

The Ba'th Party Regional Command member said if the United States really wants dialogue, it must take a serious view of holding this dialogue on the basis of leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which calls for a practical linkage to resolve all standing problems in the Arab region, at head of which is the Palestine question.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Ba'th Party Regional Command member, hailed the positions of the neighboring Turkish Muslim people who have shown support for the Iraqi people in their legitimate and just struggle against the imperialist and Zionist threats and expansionist and aggressive schemes. [passage omitted]

Meets Ramadan

JN3112163290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, has said that the U.S.-Atlantic occupation of Islamic sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Zionist occupation of Islamic holy sites in Palestine have revealed the truth about the U.S.-Zionist alliance, this alliance's enmity toward Arabs and Muslims, and its defiance of their sentiments through the desecration of the Muslims' Qiblah [the direction to which Muslims turn in praying] and the tomb of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

During a meeting today with a delegation of the Turkish Welfare Party led by Uguzkhan Asil Turk [name as received], Ramadan added that the Arabs and Muslims will wage a jihad against the unjust aggressors and liberate their sanctities from the filth of the Zionists and Americans and also from all the agents who are carrying out the orders of the infidel U.S. Administration.

The delegation of the Turkish Welfare Party expressed the Turkish people's position rejecting the hostile policy of the United States, which is allied to the Zionist entity. The delegation referred to the Turkish people's desire and endeavors to develop ties with the Iraqi people and to strengthen the religious and historical relations between the two peoples.

Sees Assembly Speaker

JN3112182790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with Uguzkhan Asil Mark [name as received], secretary general of the Turkish Welfare Party.

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker said that, led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, Iraq and its people are holding out against threats and conspiracies against their security and territorial integrity.

He also stressed Iraq's serious and dedicated endeavors to bring permanent and comprehensive peace to the region on the lines specified by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

The secretary general of the Turkish Welfare Party reiterated the Turkish people's support for the people of Iraq as they stand up to the aggression of the imperialist and Zionist forces on the sacred Arab land in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

The United States and its allies, he added, should try to understand the key issues of the region and then work to find fair and peaceful solutions to them and to stop beating the drums of war.

He hailed His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative as the key to settling all the problems in the Arab region, above all a fair and permanent solution to the Palestinian question, so as to satisfy Arab and Muslim nations.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly speaker received a delegation from the Soviet Committee of War Veterans, led by its Deputy Chairman Ali Rida Ujeh [name as received].

During the meeting, Sa'di Mahdi Salih underscored the justice of the cause for which Iraq and all good and honorable children of the Arab and Muslim nations are striving, and the undoubted preparedness of our people for sacrifice and martyrdom to achieve the Arab nation's victory over its invading enemies who covet the land and resources of the Arabs.

Ali Rida Ujeh expressed his total rejection of war and threats, and called for a just and comprehensive peace in the Arab region through dialogue and negotiation.

He praised the steadfastness and sacrifices of the Iraqi people as they defend themselves against imperialism and Zionism and their plans to control and blackmail on Arab land.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih also met with a delegation of the Algerian popular committee in support of the Iraqi people.

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker reviewed Arab and international developments against the backdrop of mounting U.S. threats to Iraq and the Arab nation.

The Algerian delegation expressed their support for the brotherly Iraqi people as they stand firm against American and Atlantic invasion forces and their readiness to make sacrifices in the cause of Arab dignity and interests targeted by the vicious American aggression.

Sees Religious Minister

JN3112192990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1723 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil received today a delegation of the Turkish Welfare Party led by Uguzkhan Asil Turk [name as received], the secretary general of the party, and his delegation.

During the meeting, Uguzkhan reiterated the Muslim Turkish people's support for the fraternal Iraqi people in the face of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic threats.

The Turkish delegation condemned the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic invasion of the holy Islamic lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and added that the presence of the invading troops poses a threat to peace in the region and to all mankind.

The Turkish official also condemned the piracy committed by the U.S. and allied Atlantic troops against peace messengers on board the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon.

'Abdallah Fadil praised the immense efforts being made by Islamic parties and organizations in Turkey to support the Iraqi people, who are now waging their pan-Arab battle, the crucial battle, against the forces of infidelity, polytheism, and deception. He reaffirmed Iraq's constant course that seeks comprehensive peace in the region and the whole world.

During the meeting, which was attended by Dr. Muhammad Sharif, member of the Executive Bureau of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization, they discussed ways to enhance ties between the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs and the Turkish Welfare Party in the interest of the two neighboring Islamic peoples in Iraq and Turkey.

It was also decided to allocate a number of seats at the Saddam University for Islamic Sciences and the Higher Islamic Institute for Training Imams and Preachers for Turkish students in recognition of the great role the Turkish Welfare Party is playing to mobilize the Muslim Turkish people to meet the U.S.-Zionist challenges posed to Arab and Islamic nations.

Parties Sign Cooperation Protocol

JN0301103291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Turkish Welfare Party have stressed the need to stand up to aggressive imperialist and Zionist interferences aimed at harming the rights and interests of Iraq and Turkey and the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two neighboring peoples.

In a cooperation protocol signed for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party by the director of the Foreign Relations Office at the Party's Regional Command and for the Welfare Party by Secretary General Uguzkhan Asil Turk [name as received], the two sides underlined the need to exert maximum efforts to solve the problems between Islamic states by peaceful means and through negotiations and noninterference in the internal affairs.

The two parties underscored the importance of bolstering and promoting their relations with a view to serving the friendship and cooperation between the two neighboring countries and of exerting maximum efforts to bring about just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region and to liberate Muslim sanctities from the dirt of the covetous invaders.

U.S. Delegation Arrives, Leader Condemns Embargo

JN3112192490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—A delegation of the U.S. organization the alliance for Middle East children arrived in Baghdad this evening on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Kevin Danher [name as received], head of the organization, denounced and condemned the embargo on food and medicine imposed on the children and people of Iraq, describing it as an unjust, inhuman action.

He also emphasized the need for dialogue and negotiations to reach peaceful and just solutions to all Middle East problems.

Algeria's Madani Expresses Solidarity With Nation

JN2612160190 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers, Dec 26, INA—Mr. Abbas Madani leader of the Islamic Salvation Front has confirmed that Iraq's potentials and military strength are a power to all Arabs and Moslems, thus all should maintain it.

In a statement to INA correspondent here, Mr. Madani condemned those parties trying to push the United

States to ignite the war, confirming his front's firm stand with Iraq against any attempt to undermine Iraq's capabilities and sovereignty.

He stressed that the unique beneficiary is the Zionist entity because it will remain the only force that could impose the imperialist domination on the region and its peoples.

Algerian Committee Delegation Meets With Jasim

JN2812211290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1958 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Dec (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of its Foreign Relations Bureau, has asserted that the high degree of preparedness of the Iraqi people, along with all the struggling masses of the Arab nation, will defeat the invading aggressors who gathered on the land of the Arabian Peninsula—the cradle of sanctities.

During his meeting tonight with Bashir Boumahdi, head of the Algerian popular committee for the support of the Iraqi people, and his delegation, Latif Nusayyif Jasim added that the gathering of infidelity and evil—which is supported by the traitors of the nation, primarily Fahd—must be defeated.

He also asserted that the gallantry and chivalry which the Arabs and Muslims enjoy to defend the land of the sanctities will defeat this gathering of infidels and put and end to their malice.

The comrade official in charge of the Ba'th Party's Regional Command Foreign Relations Bureau stressed Iraq's unswerving adherence to the historic initiative launched by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August which set forth the practical, objective bases for resolving all the problems of the region on a just basis, particularly its central cause, Palestine.

Bashir Boumahdi expressed the solidarity of the Algerian people with their brother Iraqis and their wise leader President Saddam Husayn in his opposition to the American-Zionist conspiracy, which aims at humiliating Arabs, plundering their wealth, and desecrating Muslim sanctities.

He also asserted that the sons of Algeria are fully ready to respond to the call of holy jihad with the people of Iraq, with all power and honor.

The meeting was attended by the comrades director and members of the Party's Regional Command Foreign Relations Bureau.

Confers With Ba'th Party Official

JN3012172290 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 30, INA—Director of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Regional Leadership today met here delegation of the Algerian popular committee for supporting the Iraqi people.

The delegation expressed appreciation over marvelous steadfastness of the Iraqi people, renewing Algeria's firm stance with Iraq in countering the American-NATO-Zionist threats and challenges.

Sees Ramadan

JN3112142290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Algerian names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, received today Bachir Boumahdi, chairman of the Algerian Committee for Supporting Iraq, and Ibrahim Bustanji, deputy chairman of the committee.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the restoration of the severed, usurped, and occupied Arab rights is attainable through jihad and sacrifice, not through slogans and false promises. He said that the Arab nation is stronger than the enemies and coward agents think.

The first deputy prime minister praised the position of the fraternal Algerians, which reflects their nobility and revolutionary spirit with regard to the struggle for liberation, independence, and Arabism.

Bachir Boumahdi and Ibrahim Bustanji expressed pride in the courageous and wise leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, which has given momentum to the militant spirit dwelling in the hearts of the Arab masses. They pointed out that the battle for which Iraq, along with all Arabs and all well-meaning parties in the world, is preparing is a pan-Arab battle against the Zionist, American, and Atlantic occupation of Arab lands. They added that this battle would also be a battle for ridding the Arabs of agents and their allies and also for freeing the Arab wealth that is being plundered by the enemies. Moreover, they said that the Algerian people are standing in the forward trench with Iraq and with all Arab masses that have volunteered to restore their usurped rights.

Saddam Receives Sudanese Envoy, Message

JN3112114290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1028 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this morning received al-Sadiq Bakhit, press adviser to Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir. Al-Sadiq Bakhit conveyed to his excellency a message from the Sudanese president regarding the solid relations between the two sisterly countries and developments in the Arab region.

Al-Sadiq Bakhit expressed the solidarity of Sudan—government and people—and their support for their brothers in Iraq in defending the Arab nation's rights and sanctities.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Salih Receives Jordanian Red Crescent Leader

JN2712205190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1752 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today met with Dr. 'Ahmad Abu-Qurah, president of the Permanent Committee of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and president of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society.

During the meeting, Sa'di Mahdi Salih affirmed that Iraq's confidence in achieving victory is limitless because it is on the side of truth, and also because in confronting the conspiracy targeting it, it relies on the truthfulness of its principles and on its firm adherence to the course conducive to attaining national and pan-Arab rights.

The National Assembly speaker paid tribute to the noble pan-Arab stands of the Jordanian people and their firm position in the face of all forms of hostile pressure targeting them to weaken their economic capabilities and prevent them from playing their pan-Arab role. He indicated that the nobility of the fraternal Jordanian people has made it inevitable for them to stand on the side of truth and justice, which the Iraqis are seeking to vindicate in a manner that will safeguard Arabs' dignity and protect their sanctities.

Dr. Ahmad Abu-Qurah condemned the UN Security Council resolution denying Iraqi children, women, and elderly people access to food and medicine, affirming his support for Iraq's responsible positions and its endeavors to reach a just and honorable peace in the region.

Leader on Medicine in Kuwait

JN2912120990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Dec (INA)—Dr. Ahmad Abu-Qurah, president of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society and chairman of the Permanent Commission of the League of the Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, left Baghdad today after a four-day visit to Iraq.

Dr. Ahmad Abu-Qurah told INA that during the visit, he acquainted himself with the outstanding health and medical services being extended by the Health Ministry to citizens in the Governorate of Kuwait as part of its endeavors to provide the best in this field.

He said that hospitals and health departments in the governorate of Kuwait are continuing to provide positive services to the citizens because they have all the medical equipment and medicines they need. He also stressed that, compared with other international hospitals, many of these hospitals have more apparatuses and equipment than their basic needs.

Jordanian Democratic Alliance Delegation Arrives

JN2312192190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA)—The Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance [JANDA] led by Mashhur Hadithah al-Jazi arrived in Baghdad this evening. In a statement to INA, he praised President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative and described it as a sure guarantee for finding a comprehensive, lasting, and just solution to all the region's problems, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

He also stressed that all JANDA factions support Iraq and its wise leadership's preparations to confront the American-Zionist conspiracy and foil its evil goals.

Vows Support for Saddam, Departs

JN2712201790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1758 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The delegation representing the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance [JANDA] left Iraq today following a five-day visit.

In a statement to INA, Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi, JANDA's media spokesman, said President Saddam Husayn's meeting with us increased our happiness and pride, and reflected the genuineness of the honorable Arab and Islamic values and principles in which his excellency believes.

He reasserted that the Jordanian Arab people stand in the same trench with Iraq in its just battle against the forces of evil and aggression which threaten the safety and security of our Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Ramadan, Mother Theresa Envoy Confer on Deaths

JN2712210190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, today received Father Duhiny [name as received], envoy of Mother Theresa.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed Iraq's serious desire to bring about a just and comprehensive peace, and its willingness to cooperate with the sincere endeavors being made by peace activists and peace organizations, because of its deep belief that peace is the law of life, without which mankind can neither achieve progress nor realize happiness.

Father Duhiny affirmed that the economic blockade resolutions which have denied the Iraqi children and people access to food, milk, and medicine are illegal. He added that these resolutions constitute a glaring aggression on the Iraqi people.

Mother Theresa's envoy said that the tragedies being suffered by Iraqi children because they are being denied access to medicine have caused the death of thousands of them. He added that this is an act that can never be condoned by humanity, international laws, or heavenly faiths. He pointed out that international peace efforts are growing day in and day out. He expressed his confidence that victory will be the lot of the advocates of peace and stability.

Ba'th Party Official Confers With Japanese Group

JN2712124790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1309 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Dec (INA)—The head of the External Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Command today met with a delegation of the Japanese Socialist Party led by member of Parliament Masato Okita.

The head of the External Relations Bureau of the [Ba'th] Party's Regional Command reviewed with the visiting delegation the situation on the Arab and international scenes and developments in light of the U.S.-Zionist threats against Iraq and the Arab nation. He affirmed Iraq's stance and its firm and principled course which aims to achieve a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the region on the basis of President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August.

Masato Okita valued Iraq's peace initiatives and its persistent endeavors to achieve peace in the region. He added that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August and the positive proposals contained in it satisfy the international community's desire to bring about a durable peace in the region—a peace that would allow the region's nationals to devote their undivided attention to reconstruction, prosperity, and development. He strongly denounced the imperialist-Zionist invasion of Arab lands and urged the international community—peoples and governments—to shoulder its responsibilities and play a genuine role away from the U.S.-Zionist hegemony and blackmail in order to find just solutions to regional problems and support Iraq's peace endeavors in this regard.

During the meeting, which was attended by comrade members of the External Relations Bureau of the party's Regional Command, the two sides agreed to enhance the ties of cooperation between the two parties in the interest of the two countries' peoples.

Ramadan Meets With ACC Official

JN3012171890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Hisham Hasan Tawfiq, assistant secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

They discussed the latest developments in the region and the role of Arab organizations at this stage.

Mr. Ramadan stressed during the meeting that the Arab nation is passing through a phase of new upsurge, which will become brighter and gain greater scope after the American and Zionist enemies of the Arabs have been beaten and the dreams and cruel expansionist ambitions of the invaders have been shattered.

Minister Departs for New Delhi 2 Jan

JN0201213491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1124 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Baghdad today for New Delhi at the head of a delegation on a several-day visit to India at the invitation of the Indian foreign minister.

During the visit, the minister of state for foreign affairs will hold talks with his Indian counterpart and other officials on relations between the two friendly countries, and exchange views on the latest developments in the region and issues of common interest.

USSR Congress of Deputies Sends Saddam Letter

JN3012193390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has received a letter for His Excellency President Saddam Husayn from the Congress of People's Deputies in the Soviet Union. It was coneyed by USSR Ambassador in Baghdad Viktor Viktorovich Posuvalyuk when he called on the first deputy prime minister this evening. The letter dealt with the positive relations between Iraq and the USSR and the need to develop them, and the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

ICRC Urged To See Conditions on Ibn Khaldoon

JN0401213891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] U.S. and Atlantic naval forces continue the impoundment of the peace vessel Ibn Khaldoon 30 miles to the south of the Omani island of Masirah for the eighth consecutive day.

Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah told INA that the U.S. and Atlantic forces informed the captain of the vessel this morning to prepare to leave for the Qabus Port in the Sultanate of Oman. However, after a short time they told the captain to wait and not to proceed to the Omani port.

The minister said that the medicines on the vessel, which are needed for the treatment of chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, blood pressure, and ulcers have been used up, as have the basic and necessary foodstuffs like water, milk, bread, and detergents needed for cleaning purposes.

Muhammad Hamzah said that many of the peace messengers are suffering from breathing problems while children are suffering from boredom and are living in a state of shock as a result of the barbaric landing operation by the U.S. and Atlantic forces on the peace vessel.

Hamzah said that the peace vessel sent many appeals to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] asking it to dispatch representatives to investigate the health and food situation on board the vessel without, as yet, receiving any reply from the ICRC.

Muhammad Hamzah called on the ICRC urgently to send a representative to the peace vessel Ibn Khaldoon to look into the conditions of 250 women and children who are undergoing the criminal siege on the vessel by those who claim to be defending human rights.

Minister Says Ibn Khaldoon Forced to Qabus Port

JN0301214691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah has announced that the American and Atlantic forces, which are besieging the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon, forced the ship this afternoon to sail to Qabus Port to unload its cargo of medicine and baby milk. In a statement to INA, the transport and communications minister said that the peace ship sailed to Qabus Port at 1300 Baghdad local time today surrounded by a group of American and Atlantic naval units, including two warships each carrying a helicopter.

Meanwhile, the captain of the peace ship said in a radio contact with INA in Basrah that the ship will arrive at Qabus Port after sailing for 20 hours. The captain said that the health of the messengers of peace from the children and women has deteriorated as a result of the diseases inflicted on them such as cold, breathing difficulties, and dizziness and the depletion of medicines, food, and water for the passengers of the ship. He added that the peace ship Ibn-Khaldoon was seized by the American and Atlantic forces in the Arabian Sea nine days ago.

Women Protest Ship Incident to U.S. Embassy

JN0301171191 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 3, INA—The Iraqi women have hailed the brave stand of President Saddam Husayn in His heroic and decisive confrontation with the forces of aggression represented by America and its allies and agents.

The Iraqi women have expressed, in a massive gathering in front of both U.S. and Australian embassies in Baghdad, their indignation and denunciation of the American-Atlantic piracy against the peace boat Ibn Khaldoon and the attack on peace advocates of women and children. They have handed over a protest note to the American charge d'Affaire and the Australian ambassador to Baghdad.

National Assembly Approves 1991 Budget Draft Bill

JN0301165191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—The National Assembly approved the state general budget draft bill for the current year in a session today.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih delivered a speech at the beginning of the session in which he praised Iraqis' sacrifices and heroic steadfastness under the wise leadership of President Saddam Husayn against the imperialist and Zionist threats and challenges and their cunning schemes to hinder the Arab nation's awakening and scientific and technological development, which has been achieved thanks to Iraqis' brains and creativity to raise the word of justice and humanity and to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the nation.

Salih said that the firm and courageous confrontation by Iraq—supported by the brave pan-Arab stand of the sons of the Arab nation and all good and honest people in the world—against the American and Atlantic onslaught has aborted the schemes of the enemies that have revealed their hidden rancor against the Arab nation.

Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council, deputy prime minister, and chairman of the Economic Committee, said in his speech that the committee took into consideration—when it prepared and discussed the documents of the state general budget draft bill for the current year—many objectives and sought important goals when it was finally formulated. Among these objectives are concentrating on the need to maintain the capabilities of Iraqi economic steadfastness against the pressures to which Iraq is being exposed as a result of the unjust blockade imposed by world imperialism; maintaining the appropriate and honorable standard of living for the Iraqi citizen; and strengthening the Iraqi citizen's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist and Zionist aggression.

Hammadi said that the documents of the budget bill have reaffirmed the need to provide the basic commodities to citizens and to continue to subsidize their prices, particularly the commodities covered by the rationing system.

The Assembly was then addressed by Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj, who reviewed the draft state budget and noted that it was drawn up taking into account the unjust economic embargo against Iraq and imperialist and Zionist machinations against the people of Iraq.

The minister said the budget gives priority to the productive sectors and Iraq's steadfastness against imperialist and Zionist threats.

The Assembly was also addressed by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, who said that with the budget in mind, his Ministry has taken all the necessary measures to meet the needs of the general public from domestic production.

The new distribution plan calls for bolstering Iraq's steadfastness and defiance in the face of all forms of threats and challenges, the minister added.

Speaking to the National Assembly, Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud outlined the cooperative efforts of the Ministry's agencies and unions to make a success of the winter reclamation plan.

He said nine million donums have been planted with wheat and 8.5 million donums with barley. Meanwhile, 180,000 tonnes of wheat seeds have been made available for farmers to grow crops.

Attending the 20-point state budget debate were representatives of the state ministries and affiliated agencies.

It is to be recalled that with the debate and ratification of the draft budget, the National Assembly has completed its autumn term.

Advice to Citizens in Case of Nuclear Attack

JN0301131891 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
31 Dec 90 p 10

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] What are the general recommendations for reducing the effects of nuclear contamination of the body?

Before giving the general recommendations for reducing these effects to the lowest possible level, we must realize that these contaminants cannot be removed through cooking, heating, cooling, or even through normal chemical reactions. They might also penetrate regular filters such as those in oil refineries. Therefore, prevention is the ideal solution and is better than cure.

Prevention depends on the type of accident and when it takes place. In the case of a nuclear explosion, there are preventive measures that can be taken to protect oneself. Some of these are:

Preparatory Preventive Measures

Measures taken by the citizen before an attack occurs and when the military situation escalates:

A. Prepare a shelter for protection: Whether this is a real shelter or a room. Preferably, this should be on the ground floor, with small windows that can be sealed. Materials should be prepared to seal off windows well and for substitution in case the glass shatters. This room will be the shelter for all residents of the house for two or three weeks and all activities will take place inside this room. It will be the bedroom, relaxation room, dining room, kitchen, and so on.

B. Prepare food: Although frozen food can last for months, it is possible that a power failure might occur, which means that dry foods should be available such as cracked wheat, rice, flour, or pasta, legumes, for protein; dried dates, since they provide a comprehensive diet; and dried tomatoes, eggplants, okra, and any other available food provided it is stored in plastic bags.

C. Prepare water: The water tank of the house should be properly sealed and covered with a piece of plastic or cloth to prevent fallout from entering. If the external water pipes and faucets are cut off or contaminated, water should be used very sparingly, since the water tank will continue to be the main source for all purposes. It is preferable that water be channeled into the room or shelter from one of the pipes connected to the tank.

D. Prepare reading material: It is recommended that some books on Arab history, Arab poetry, stories, or international novels be made available, making sure that the holy Koran heads all such books, together with other religious books.

E. Prepare leisure activities: There are many entertaining pastimes, such as crosswords, joke books, and comics, in addition to dominoes, backgammon, and cards; or activities such as knitting, needlework, sewing, or drawing. Each person should store things in accordance with his own hobbies and desires. You should realize that sleeping is the best way to spend such time in view of the lack of general physical activity.

F. Miscellaneous preparations: These will not slip the minds of all who need to survive in one place for two or more weeks. Some things need more than one container, such as garbage and excrement, which should be thrown outside at lightening speed, or perhaps more than one set of underwear or clothes. People should stop smoking completely, since oxygen must be preserved as long as possible.

Measures To Take Before an Attack

A. When the concerned authorities decide to evacuate citizens, all citizens should follow instructions completely, cooperate with the concerned sides to implement the evacuation as fast and efficiently as possible, and restrict themselves to carrying only an identity card.

B. When the warning period is short (within hours of the strike) citizens should hurry as quickly as possible to the prepared shelter and start their new way of life with psychological readiness and understanding.

Immediate measures

Measures to be taken by the individual when an explosion occurs:

A. Turn one's back to the light source to protect the eyes.

B. Lie flat on the ground.

C. Protect the head with the hands and lie face downward.

D. Cover the hands, face, and exposed parts of the body with pieces of cloth, or anything available at that moment.

E. Seek protection from the wind and storms behind thick barriers.

Intermediate Measures

Measures should be taken after the explosion occurs, as soon as fallout begins. How a person behaves under these circumstances can lead to decreasing the damage to a large extent. Some of these are the following:

Protection of the Body:

First: Disperse and move away from the place of the explosion in the opposite direction of the wind after placing a piece of cloth over your nose and mouth as fast as possible, either on foot or by any other means of transportation, without carrying anything with you irrespective of how valuable, except for your identity card.

Second: After two hours seek shelter in any house or shelter after obtaining the permission of the landlord.

Third: Wash your body thoroughly with water and ask for a set of clean clothing.

Fourth: Stay in that place for two weeks or until the authorities announce the end of the situation. Food intake should be reduced as much as possible. It is preferable to follow what we do during the month of Ramadan; that is, eat one meal a day in order to:

a: Prevent the entry of contaminants or reduce them inside the body.

b: Economize on food and water, to make it last longer and to avoid leaving the house.

c: Control the activity of the digestive system so that one can stay in a sealed off place as long as possible.

Psychological Protection:

First: Stay calm and collected and do not get panicky, confused, or hungry.

Second: Pass the time reading and playing entertaining games.

Third: Be patient and consider this period a test of the strength of personality.

Fourth: Rest your mind, there are fierce lions protecting the borders and remember the heroism of Iraq and the nation.

Fifth: Remember that you are not alone and that you have a depth extending from your room to Dahuk in the north and the sea in the south, and from the Atlantic Ocean to the depth of all seas in the world.

Security Protection:

First: Follow the instructions of the authorities whether through internal information or through the loud speakers of the mosques or Civil Defense.

Second: Help the Security and police forces keep the peace and cooperate as much as you can.

Third: Combat rumors and obsessions.

Social Protection:

First: Cooperate with others and follow the example of believers who, in their friendship, sympathy, and mercy are like one body; when one part is ailing, all other parts of the body suffer and ail.

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

Second: Iraq is one family and remember that whoever said that also said "Allow me to say that I think about your happiness more than you think of it yourselves." It was Saddam Husayn, God protect him.

Third: Help those who need help.

Fourth: Protect the property of others.

Religious Protection:

First: Come closer to God to eliminate this dark cloud from over the nation.

Second: Pray for Iraq, the leader, and the nation, and pray to God to make Iraq's army and armed forces triumph.

Third: Rest assured that God is on our side because we are on the side of justice and God is always on the side of justice. [passage omitted]

Citizens Advised on Germ Warfare Precautions

JN2412154090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1338 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear citizen, greetings. The enemy may resort to biological war means, through which it will aim to deliver the biological substance—germs or their poisons—to their target, such as human, animal, or plant. These germs include: Bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, which cause malaria and dysentery.

In order to protect your life against these biological agents, observe the following guidelines:

1. Store water and food and keep them away from contamination.
2. Take extra health precautions to reduce the possibility of contamination.
3. Isolate the infected persons and the contaminated areas in order to prevent the spread of the disease.
4. Formulate plans to protect the crops.
5. Sterilize the infected persons and the contaminated equipment and areas whenever possible.

We wish safety to all.

Officials Instruct Citizens on Air Raid Measures

JN3012131990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0830 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Two announcements from an unidentified program by Colonel Muhammad Hasan al-Banna, head of public relations and information in the Public Civil Defense Directorate, and teacher Qusayy Salih Talab Samarra'i—recorded]

[Text] Honorable citizens: To create a state of popular mobilization to confront the emergency conditions being plotted by the forces of aggression and greed, the enemies of peace—the Americans and their allies in the region—we ask you to do your part by joining the open training centers at the Civil Defense directorates in Baghdad and the governorates to receive information on civil defense measures to reduce material and human losses in all emergency situations. We wish you general safety always, and we thank you for your cooperation with us in the service of our dear Iraq under the leadership of the nation's knight, the leader of victory and peace, leader President Saddam Husayn, God protect and keep him.

[Signed] Colonel Muhammad Hasan al-Banna, head of Public Relations and Information in the Public Civil Defense Directorate.

Dear sister citizen, dear brother citizen; The siren is one of the important things that warns and informs citizens to take the necessary measures for any emergency event. The siren is the Civil Defense Authoritiy's warning of an air raid, alerting the citizens to the time it begins and ends.

There are certain things one must do when one hears the siren preceding the air raid:

First, when we hear a broken whistle for a period of three minutes, if you are at home, one: maintain your calm, common sense, and courage. Two, cut off the electric current from its main source immediately. Three, keep the windows wide open to prevent glass from shattering. Four, turn off the heaters and close off the gas and water taps. Five, do not go out into the street at the time of the raid, but go down to the lower levels or garages; avoid hiding under stairs, because they could collapse. Six, make sure that you carry your important documents, financial assets, and jewelry. Seven, avoid using elevators since the electric current might be cut off. Eight, do not use the telephone during the air raid, because it might be needed for other, more important purposes. Nine, the first-aid kit and fire extinguisher should always be available close by.

If you are on a main road—One: immediately take refuge in the nearest shelter, ground floor, ditch, or any appropriate building that could protect you; two: if you are in a vehicle, ask the driver to stop by the side of the road then leave the vehicle and go to the most appropriate building that protects you; three: avoid popular gatherings in the streets or public squares, because they are targets.

If you are in the open:—One: immediately spread out on the ground, placing your hands around your face to protect the ears and eyes. It is preferable that this take place near a barrier of some sort, even sand. Leave your location quickly after the raid is over to the nearest shelter.

If you are driving a vehicle—One: pull over immediately to the right side of the road so as not to hamper the passage of the other civil defense services; two: switch off the engine and turn off the lights if at night; three, leave the car quickly and resort to the nearest help you can get; four, drivers of vehicles carrying oil or flammable materials should move their vehicles to an open space away from residential areas; five, drivers of carriages drawn by domestic animals should adhere to the same instructions.

Thank you very much.

[Signed] Teacher Qusayy Salih Talab Samarra'i.

Interior Minister Supervises Evacuation Exercise

JN3112165990 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Dec 90 p 6

[Excerpts] AL-JUMHURIYAH was on hand for an evacaution drill held at dawn yesterday in Diyala Governorates's al-Mada'in district and its environs.

AL-JUMHURIYAH accompanied Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, who is supreme director of Civil Defense in Iraq, as he supervised the exercise. The minister met with the committees in charge of implementation before it got under way. Represented on the committee are personnel in charge of transport, food, and medical services as well as law enforcement officers.

All the committees adhered strictly to their respective plans of action.

The minister personally tested the efficiency of the fire brigades, which, along with other teams, carried out their assigned duties with precision and speed.

Inspecting the site designated as the assembly site during the evacuation, the minister said the point of the drill was to deepen the general public's sense of precautionary awareness, to ascertain its reaction in real life situations, and to verify the efficiency of civil defense apparatuses, self-defense, rescue, and evacuation teams.

Chatting with members of the families and households taking part in the exercise, the minister said he was impressed by their performance and their resolve to stand up to imperialist and Zionist plans. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, it has been announced that other such drills are planned for other governorates to test the efficiency of civil defense teams.

Medical Shortage Caused 2,182 Deaths 'Last Month'

JN3112151190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has said that 2,182 citizens over the age of five years old died last month as a result of the medicine and food blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

In a statement to INA, he added that the deaths occurred because of the unavailability of medicines and medical requirements for patients suffering from cardiac diseases, cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

The minister asked: Where are the human rights and Geneva conventions that provide for the protection of civilians in times of war and peace and which guarantee them medical and food supplies?

The minister repeated that the resolutions passed by the UN Security Council at the urging of the Bush administration are illegal and inhuman because they contravene international and human rules and norms.

The health minister said that 2,042 children below the age of five have died over the past four months, adding that these deaths constitute indisputable proof that condemns the criminal acts of Bush, his supporters, and his allies. He added that Iraq had signed contracts to purchase 164 consignments of medicines, medical appliances, pharmaceutical items, and children's vaccines before 2 August. However, these consignments were either seized at international ports or returned to their points of origin, he added.

Concluding his statement, the minister urged humanitarian organizations and bodies in the world to intervene to thwart the food and medicine blockade imposed on the Iraqi people and children by the U.S. Administration, and to provide them with medical and food aid.

Liquid Gas Now Available in 'Large Quantities'

JN0301171491 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 1 Jan 90 p 4

[By Muhan al-Zahir]

[Text] When asked by our newspaper about liquid gas at gas warehouses and sale outlets, an official source at the General Establishment of Petroleum Products made the following statement:

There have been more frequent instances of leakage from gas cylinders sold on the market, resulting in unnecessary waste and hazards to the safety of the general public. In November, the Ministry of Oil began an intensive effort to deal with the problem at filling plants—to make sure no defective cylinder reaches the market.

The source added that maintenance work has led to a temporary decline in the availability of cylinders. The deficit has recently been redressed and there have been more than enough cylinders to meet market needs.

The source reassured citizens that liquid gas is now available in large quantities, and that production is proceeding unimpeded, adding that the shortfall was due to a decline in the filling rather than in the production of liquid gas.

200 POW's Return Home Aboard Iraqi Plane

JN3012124690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 29 Dec (INA)—The 14th batch of prisoners of war [POW's] comprising 200 POW's returned home this afternoon on board an Iraqi plane. [passage omitted]

Opposition Member Cited on 'Voice of Free Iraq'

LD0101151691 London KUNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (KUNA)—A new broadcasting station will start here today under the name "Voice of Free Iraq," broadcasting its program to explain the realities of events inside Iraq without distortion, deception, or interference from the Iraqi authorities.

A prominent member of the Iraqi opposition has said that the radio station, which will broadcast its programs daily from 0630 to 2300 hours, will be a station "for all the Iraqi people in all its classes."

He said the radio will enable the Iraqi people to know the events happening in the world without distortion or deception, far from the customary practice of Iraqi media of distributing news contrary to what is happening in the world.

He stated that the "Voice of Free Iraq" will broadcast its programs on the following shortwaves:

19.22 meters, with a frequency of 15600 KHZ

16.72 meters, with a frequency of 17940 KHZ

30.36 meters, with a frequency of 9750 KHZ

He added that there are additional short and medium waves which will be announced later. He stressed that the aim of the radio is to convey the voice of the "Iraqi" opposition to every Iraqi citizen and every Arab inside and outside Iraq.

The Iraqi opposition member concluded his statement by saying that the "Voice of Free Iraq" will enable the helpless Iraqi people to utter their decisive word on the bloody, oppressive regime of Saddam Husayn; and it will provide information to support the struggle of the "Iraqi" people, the patriotic forces of which are grouping today to play their role in deciding the fate of Iraq, to liberate it from the dictatorial regime and to build its bright future.

Opposition Radio Calls for 'Uprising' on Army Day

JN0401092991 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Appeal to Iraqi Army]

[Text] O sons of our army; O militant officers and valiant heroic soldiers: Let the anniversary of the founding of our brave army [6 January] be the day of our uprising against the tyranny of Saddam Husayn. Let us take the anniversary of the founding of our army as an opportunity for a revolution against corruption, aggression, and the rule of the family of crime, the family of Saddam and the al-Majid. Let your guns be directed toward the criminals instead of the sons of your people or brothers.

Voice of Free Iraq Urges Popular Disobedience

JN0301161991 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] As we approach the date set for Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait, and thus preserve the pure Iraqi blood and maintain Iraqi capabilities, expectations and speculations by observers and political analysts are rife. Thus, psychological pressure increases on citizens in Iraq and the region. Will Saddam withdraw peacefully? Will he withdraw fully or partially? Will he refuse to withdraw? Will a destructive war break out? Will the multinational forces enter Kuwait and be satisfied with evicting him from it? Will they enter Iraq and destroy our beloved Iraq's military strength, God forbid? There are many questions. The only thing that the Arab and foreign analysts and observers have not considered is the only and guaranteed solution, namely, the withdrawal of the Iraqi army, which would be a clever move that would surprise everybody and put an end to this anomalous situation and to all speculations and questions.

The only solution is an uprising by all sectors, parties, organizations, sects, and nationalities to pull the carpet from under the feet of the tyrant and to destroy his arrogance. The people always have the final word. It is high time that millions of Iraqis in all Iraq's cities and villages, both men and women, stage a unified movement of disobedience under the leadership of the victorious nationalist Iraqi movement to destroy the pillars of the regime. Then, our valiant army will be freed from the large prison in which the tyrant has placed it, so that it can stand alongside its kinfolk and people and so that the soldier and officer can join his mother, father, brother, and son to save present and future Iraq from the anomalous situation that has been imposed on it by unusual circumstances that took the Iraqi people and their nationalist militant forces unawares. It is time for such a move. Circumstances are ripe from every angle—political, military, locally, and internationally. Move with God's blessings. This is the only remaining and legitimate solution.

Talk Criticizes 'Stupid Dictator' Saddam Husayn

JN0301153591 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 0650 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O brave sons of our army: Your mothers, sisters, and [words indistinct] pray to God day and night so that you will safely return to them and not get killed in a losing war that does not at all benefit our beloved Iraq. Think well. A few kilometers away from your positions are huge weapons of destruction which you are facing with few weapons, without spare parts or supplies, while he is fortified behind strong walls where nobody can see or reach him or his sons, brothers, and relatives. You alone are face to face with the destructive catastrophe. He has enslaved our young people and placed them around his palaces to protect and defend him. He has also stationed some of you on the lines of death. He has not taken any of you into his considerations: Let others die for what is important, namely that he, his sons, his brothers, and his relatives remain regardless of the price and whether this is done through treachery, lying, prevarication, or the delusions he broadcasts to you via radio, television, and the press. He is deceiving you by withholding facts about the true difficult military and political situation in which he has placed Iraq in order to satisfy his ambitions, vanity, and diseases for fear that you may know the truth and turn against him and his gang and henchmen. Be stronger than him in your adherence to dignity, freedom, and life. May you live long. Long live your army, our valiant army. Death to your enemy and the enemy of all Iraqis, the stupid dictator Saddam Husayn.

Radio Urges Armed Forces To 'Defy' Orders

JN0401142591 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 0605 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Appeal to the Iraqi Popular Army]

[Text] O sons of the Iraqi Armed Forces, O brothers in the Popular Army, you are of this people, from their sons, tribes, and beloved ones; you are an integral part of this people's present and future. Direct your rifles at the regime of the tyrant Saddam Husayn. Defy the orders of this regime that has humiliated our people and desecrated our dignity. Deliver your people from its power and transform the anniversary of our brave army's founding into a day of triumph over tyrant Saddam. Your victory is close, God willing. This is the Voice of Free Iraq radio.

Radio Urges Iraqis To Help Army Topple Saddam

JN0401160391 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The opposition political forces making up a national front coalition have addressed appeals to our people in all Iraqi governorates urging them to remain alert and vigilant and to close ranks in anticipation of our people's uprising against the regime of the tyrant Saddam.

These forces, which have united for the first time in a quarter of a century urged our people to support the uprising of our Iraqi Army and to be fully prepared to take part in supporting the Army's move, which will start shortly to topple the regime of injustice and corruption.

In their statements, our people's forces said that the toppling of Saddam Husayn's regime is a pressing need to avert the catastrophe that threatens the country because of Saddam Husayn's increased inclination for treachery and aggression.

It is to be recalled that the national front's charter, which has been endorsed by all factions and parties of the Arab and Kurdish forces, and by Islamic and democratic forces, will be distributed to the masses of our people in Baghdad and all governorates. Hence, we draw the attention of all of our people's sons to this.

Kurdish Leader: We Would Fight To Free Kuwait

PM2112142690 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19-25 Dec 90 pp 23, 24, 27

[Second part of two-part interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Najm 'Abd-al-Karim in London; date not given: "Talabani Tells AL-MAJALLAH: We Would Fight Alongside Arab Forces To Liberate Kuwait!"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Karim] There is a question concerning Israeli-Kurdish relations.

[Talabani] I will be frank with you: We believe that the Kurdish people are bound to the Arab nation, and especially the Palestinian people, by historical ties. The Kurds are proud of the glories of Saladin, who worked for Palestine and supported that people and the just Arab causes long ago. When the issue of Arab unity between Iraq and Syria was broached in 1963 I was authorized by General al-Barzani and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan to represent the Kurdish delegation, which was an honor for me. General al-Barzani and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan authorized me to do this. I presented a memorandum during the tripartite unity talks which said, among other things: "We support Arab unity, and it is an honor for us to facilitate it. We want nothing more than our rights within that unity."

['Abd-al-Karim] Were you a member of the Iraqi delegation to the unity talks?

[Talabani] I headed the Kurdish negotiating delegation in Baghdad and I was asked to join the Iraqi popular delegation. I did so because its was a historic opportunity to meet with President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and [Former Algerian President] Ahmed Ben Bella. We explained to them our cause and won their sympathy. So there is a great deal of exaggeration on the subject of Kurdish-Israeli relations.

I do not deny that some contacts and attempts were made with Israel in the past, but they were not at the expense of Arab-Kurdish relations. The Kurdish liberation movement is an ally of the Arab liberation movement and can never be on the side hostile to the Arab nation.

[Najm] Do you deny the rumors that some Kurdish movement leaders turned to Israel after the 1975 agreement between the shah of Iran and Saddam Husayn?

[Talabani] That is a slander against the Kurdish movement. After the failure of the Kurdish revolution in 1975 none of the Kurdish leaders turned to Israel. They turned to Iran, the United States, and Europe. But there are some facts which must be revealed: The Kurds, of whom there are over 25 million, cannot all be the same. There must be traitors and spies among them, alongside the combatants and honorable men. So among the Kurdish people there must be some who will cooperate with Israel in the future.

['Abd-al-Karim] Cooperate with Israel in the future?

[Talabani] There are probably some Kurds who do cooperate with Israel. I do not deny that. This is because after the annihilation war against the Kurdish people an extremist group emerged, and I am among those who, at every meeting in Europe on the Kurds' behalf, are asked the following question: Why should we not cooperate with Israel, when the Arabs are annihilating us in Iraq? Besides, are not there among the Arabs some who have recognized Israel? Did Anwar al-Sadat not go to Israel and address the Knesset? Is Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, not calling for a visit to Israel to hold talks and negotiations for the sake of a political solution? So why are the Kurdish people condemned for a crime committed by a few Kurds who are probably spies for Israel? That does not mean that the Kurdish movement and the Kurdish people cooperate with Israel.

['Abd-al-Karim] In his memoirs Henry Kissinger pointed out that the Kurds were given arms originating from Israel.

[Talabani] I have not read Henry Kissinger's memoirs, but I believe that the arms that were given to the Kurds came from Iran. I do not know whether the shah of Iran imported them from Israel or another country.

['Abd-al-Karim] How do you deal with the Iraqi authorities' attempt to erase the Kurdish national identity?

[Talabani] The Iraqi Government managed to destroy all the Kurdish countryside and to wipe out 5,000 Kurdish villages, evacuating their inhabitants to compulsory camps near towns and major roads. So he managed to destroy the Kurdish economic life based on agriculture and stockbreeding. Although Saddam has managed to kill tens of thousands thousands of Kurds, he will not be able to kill 5 million Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan. I believe that the political, cultural, and intellectual Kurdish resistance has thwarted his plan to erase the Kurdish national identity. This is because of his disagreement with Egypt. Saddam's dream was to bring millions of Egyptians to Kurdistan in order to settle them in the Kurdish areas, but contacts were made with the Egyptian leadership to thwart that plan. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Karim] George Bernard Shaw said: The weak hope and the strong act. How will we work to remove Saddam?

[Talabani] We will struggle politically, intellectually, and informationally to mobilize the Iraqi people's energies and urge them to rise up. We will exhort the Army and work to form liberation forces. We will struggle inside and outside, applying every capability and means to topple the regime in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Karim] Now we come to the current burning issue: Would you join the war if it broke out between Saddam and the forces confronting him now?

[Talabani] We would not. We have fought Saddam since he assumed power and will continue to fight him until he is toppled. But our fighting would be Kurdish, independent, and separate. The fighting would not be as part of foreign armies invading or fighting Iraq to bargain with it and then establish relations with it. We would join the fighting in two cases: If the Turkish Army invades Iraq's Kurdistan, we would stand against it, because such an invasion would pose a threat to the Kurdish people and Iraq. When the Saddam Husayn regime is toppled, we will try to rescue our people and protect them against chaos, plunder, and murder. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Karim] The British newspaper THE GUARDIAN said that you would stand by Saddam Husayn in the event of a war.

[Talabani] I did not say that, and I reject any such statement. I said that we would stand against a Turkish invasion of Iraqi Kurdistan. But we will not stand against the liberation of Kuwait. If the Arab forces liberate Kuwait, we would urge the Kurdish troops to join them.

['Abd-al-Karim] Does Saddam Husayn possess a nuclear weapon?

[Talabani] I have not heard of it. But I believe that he is exerting tireless and great efforts to acquire that weapon.

['Abd-al-Karim] Does he possess weapons of mass destruction?

[Talabani] As a Kurdish fighter who has dealt with the Iraqi Army since 1961, I believe that the Iraqi military forces' capability is greatly exaggerated. I believe that morale within the Army is very low, and it could only confront the international forces for a matter of weeks. [passage omitted]

Islamic Call Leader Insists on 'Iraqi' Solution

PM0401144791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jan 91 p 7

[Report on interview with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi al-Asifi, official spokesman of the Islamic Call Party in Iraq, by Ibrahim Nawwar in London; date not given: "Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi al-Asifi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Saddam Destroying Iraq's Culture"]

[Excerpts] This man is one of the Iraqi opposition leaders whose word carries weight. He is Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi al-Asifi, official spokesman of the Islamic Call Party in Iraq. Shaykh al-Asifi believes in the need for all the Iraqi opposition forces to unite to realize one objective—to topple Saddam Husayn. And although I tried more than once to drag him into talking about the differences among the Iraqi Islamic movement parties, every time he politely moved me from the points of disagreement to the points of agreement and the common objective of the opposition parties as a whole, not just the Islamic movement: "As far as we are concerned, the principal issue is toppling Saddam Husayn, because he is destroying Iraq's culture. There is no division among the Islamic movement parties. There is competition to achieve political gains, God willing, for the revolution against Saddam. But there is unity of opinion and thought." [passage omitted]

Shaykh al-Asifi said: And now that the world has discovered the reality about Saddam, the Iraqi people are entitled to demand that the international community support the Iraqi opposition which represents that people. We urge the international community to withdraw its recognition of the Saddam regime in all international establishments and organizations and to provide all possible assistance to the Iraqi opposition for the sake of toppling Saddam. They supported Saddam against the Iraqi people, and the time has come for them to support the Iraqi people against Saddam.

We want Saddam to be toppled by the Iraqi people. We support any Iraqi method aimed at toppling Saddam Husayn. We really prefer a people's revolution, and for that purpose we are organizing, mobilizing, and preparing the masses for a move and rebellion. We have a precise objective view of the opposition's and the Islamic movement's strength inside Iraq. We are certain of the opposition's ability to topple Saddam. We do not need a foreign power to carry out that task which is the Iraqi people's very own task. Nevertheless, the world should not adopt a spectator's attitude, abandoning the Iraqi people. We want the world to recognize the Iraqi opposition and its institutions.

Shaykh al-Asifi said: We have a revolutionary political plan to topple Saddam and a political plan to establish an alternative regime in Iraq the future. We are working to realize the revolutionary plan through moves among kinfolk along the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.

There is also instigative action at Iraqi universities and among young people. And we are working to mobilize the Iraqi masses in exile and forming trained and armed combat groups to be distributed in various areas from Iraqi Kurdistan in the north to al-Ahwar in the south.

He added: We are optimistic about our political plan, which we are working to realize in cooperation with all the other Islamic and non-Islamic opposition forces. [passage omitted]

Shaykh al-Asifi said: It is the Iraqi people who will decide Iraq's political line in the future.

He added: We support any Iraqi attempt—stressing the word Iraqi—to topple Saddam. "The subject of forming an Iraqi government in exile has not yet been discussed, nor has a decision in that regard been reached yet." With regard to the transitional government which will succeed the Saddam regime, the shaykh said that it will be entrusted with carrying out two tasks: first, maintaining security and order in the country; and second, preparing Iraq for free elections and a referendum of all the people to determine Iraq's political future through the people's will. [passage omitted]

Arab 'Deliberately' Crashes Bus Into Cars

TA0401080791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0755 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] This just in: An Arab bus driver from Gaza deliberately crashed into two Israeli cars north of the Erez checkpoint a short while ago. An Israeli woman was killed. The driver continued on his way, hitting another Israeli car. The driver of this car managed to leave his car, only to be attacked by the Arab, who attempted to hit him with an iron club. The Israeli driver drew a gun, shot the bus driver, and killed him.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has sent reinforcement troops to the area of the incident.

'Political Circles' Criticize UN Resolution

TA0401091491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Political circles in Jerusalem have said that it is a shame the UN Security Council members again found it necessary to use Israeli currency in payment for the Gulf crisis. Our political correspondent Arye Golan was told that the Security Council resolution, which leveled criticism at Israeli acts in the Gaza Strip, was the result of an attempt by various elements to divert attention from Saddam Husayn's aggression.

The circles further noted that there is no need to address every resolution of the Security Council, and certainly not a statement which is nothing but an expression of opinion.

UN Official Visits Gaza, Meets With Notables

TA0301191591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Guido de Marco met at noon today with representatives of institutions in the Gaza Strip, including Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and attorney Furayh Abu-Mudayn. The talks covered political matters. During the meeting, the Palestinian figures presented a memorandum to Mr. de Marco in which they demanded international protection for the residents of the territories and the convocation of an international peace conference.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Mr. de Marco began his visit to the Gaza Strip this morning by visiting al-Shati' and al-Nusayrat refugee camps and the al-Ahali hospital. When he arrived at the entrance of Jabalyah refugee camp he was unable to enter because of confrontations taking place there. Three persons were wounded in those confrontations.

The security forces had declared the Gaza Strip a closed military area and prevented the entry of newsmen for fear of rioting. A senior security source told our correspondent that the security forces have announced that Judaea and Samaria will be a closed military area tomorrow to prevent rioting during Mr. de Marco's visit to al-Jalazun and al-Duhayshah refugee camps.

Says Situation Worsening

TA0401092491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The UN General Assembly president has said that the Kuwaiti and Palestinian problems are not related and that no linkage should be created between them because such an approach would encourage aggressive activities designed to raise the issue on the international agenda. General Assembly President Guido de Marco made these remarks after his meeting with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek this morning. The guest further said that an international conference is the preferred solution for the region.

Having held talks with residents of the Gaza Strip, de Marco felt that the occupation and human dignity under occupation conditions are the main problem. He expressed the apprehension that, like an inflamed abscess, the problem is gradually becoming more complicated, and that it will be more difficult to attain a peace solution.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem notes that the General Assembly president will compile a report on his visit to Israel which he will submit to the UN secretary general.

Arens Discusses Jordanian Army Position

TA0301161791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Excerpt] If Jordan remains quiet and does not move its Army, its situation will be fine. That is the advice Defense Minister Moshe Arens gave the Jordanians this afternoon, during his tour of northern Israel. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz accompanied him:

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] I would not like to be in Saddam Husayn's place today. The probability of the Iraqis firing missiles at Israel is very low. Those remarks were made today by Defense Minister Moshe Arens during a tour of the north. If Saddam dares to do it, our reply will be swift and effective, he said.

Referring to the involvement of the Jordanian Army in the dispute, the defense minister said:

[Arens] It is deployed in a defensive formation. The Jordanian Army is not big. It probably fears being involved in a war despite itself. If it remains quiet and does not move, its situation will be good, I believe.

[Horowitz] Has Israel bothered to assure Jordan that it is not about to attack it?

[Arens] I believe that Jordan has every reason to be absolutely calm concerning Israel.

[Horowitz] Do you believe that Syria and Egypt will stand by their decision to be almost together with the United States in any eventuality in the Gulf until the end?

[Arens] That is my impression. Judging from their declarations, at least, and the fact that they sent armed forces to the Gulf, I believe that Egypt and Syria are today an almost integral part—one might say—of the coalition headed by President Bush. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Pan Am Suspends Flights; Other Airlines Cut Back

TA0401113791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Jan 91 pp 1, 6

[Report by Arye Egozi, 'Idit Ne'eman, and Gabi Bron]

[Excerpts] In an unprecedented move, Pan Am, the U.S. airline company, announced yesterday that it was suspending its flights to Israel, as well as to Saudi Arabia.

The suspension is effective immediately and no Pan Am flights arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday. The decision was announced shortly after the company's morning flight took off from Ben-Gurion Airport.

Other foreign airlines announced yesterday cuts in the number of their flights to Israel.

Dani Rubinstein, the managing director of Pan Am's Israeli branch, said yesterday that the decision was because of the "enormous increase" in insurance fees the company has to pay for each flight to Israel. [passage omitted]

Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav yesterday expressed astonishment over the Pan Am decision and said he believes there is no justification for the suspension in flights. Qatzav said that El Al would assist in transporting everybody holding Pan Am tickets. [passage omitted]

British Airways was the first foreign airlines to decide that its flight crews would not spend the night in Israel because of the Gulf crisis. British Airways flights which arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport early in the morning leave immediately for Athens empty instead of waiting for the regular flight to London several hours later. An empty aircraft later arrives from Athens to pick up the passengers destined for London. [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 4 January on pages A1 and A2 in a report by Dan Arkin adds that the Netherlands firm KLM is reducing the number of its flights to Israel and that Swiss Air and Air France have changed their flight schedules so that their air crews do not have to stay in Israel overnight.] [passage omitted]

It should be pointed out that in contrast to Pan Am the two other U.S. airlines which fly to Israel, TWA and Tower Air, have so far not changed their flight schedules to Israel. [passage omitted]

Not just foreign airlines are canceling or cutting their ties with Israel, artists are also canceling performances here as the 15 January draws nearer. [passage omitted]

The Hebrew University has brought forward to next week the end of semester examinations for foreign students, so that anybody who wishes may leave the country before 15 January. The early exams are being held at the request of U.S. universities which maintain ties with the Hebrew University and because of the wave of requests by students' parents. According to unofficial data, some 50 percent of the foreign students will sit for the early exams so that they can leave before 15 January. The university announced that studies will continue as normal despite the early exams.

So far, only the Australian Embassy has officially called on its students "to return home immediately," but a similar call is expected from the Canadian Embassy.

Patriot Missiles To Defend Tel Aviv, Jerusalem

TA0401092591 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] "The new Patriot missiles that Israel is receiving will defend Tel Aviv and Jerusalem," Brigadier General Uri Ram, commander of the Antiaircraft Forces, said in an interview to the Air Force magazine. The Patriot is the most advanced antiaircraft missile. Israel is receiving them from the United States free of charge until it develops the Arrow surface-to-surface missile.

Rabin: Israel, U.S. Unable To Down Iraqi Missiles

TA0401071691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin has said that Israel and the United States have no capability to down Iraqi missiles, and if Baghdad launches missiles in our direction, they will land here. It is, therefore, necessary to prepare for such an eventuality. The former defense minister was speaking with members of the Israel-America Friendship Association in Haifa.

Mr. Rabin further said that we are on the verge of political changes resulting from the new relations between the superpowers. In Mr. Rabin's view, the Middle East will change after the United States achieves its goals in the Gulf.

Police Prepare for Deterioration, Emergency State

TA0401071091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 4 Jan 91

[Text] Police Minister Roni Milo has spoken of a possible deterioration in Israel's internal security and of police preparations for the possibility of an emergency situation as a result of the Gulf events and the radical trends among the Arab population in the territories and in Israel. Minister Milo made these remarks last night to members of the Likud Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] All Minister Milo can promise tonight is that the police are preparing for a possible exacerbation. The developments in the Middle East, the Gulf crisis, the radical movements in the territories, and their impact on Israeli Arabs—all these gave rise to the assessment and the preparations.

[Milo] In recent days the police have held discussions on our preparations for a possible state of emergency as well as other possibilities.

[Raz] Do you expect an exacerbation?

[Milo] As I said, I believe the events and the developments can cause deterioration, and we are organizing ourselves for that.

[Raz] A special organization effort and preparations are required in view of the strengthening of the Islamic Movement and its impact on the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as well as the Israeli Arabs.

In 1990, there was an increase of about nine percent in nationalistic attacks inside the Green Line. In Jerusalem, the rise was almost double: 17 percent. This is the picture Police Minister Roni Milo presented to the Likud's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee members. [end recording]

Czechoslovak Ambassador Interviewed on Relations

AU0301170491 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 29 Dec 90 p 1

[CTK report: "Air Link Between the CSFR and Israel in March"]

[Text] Cairo (CTK)— Czechoslovak-Israeli relations are expected to take another upswing in the first quarter of next year. Direct flights between the two countries—operated by the Czechoslovak Airlines and the Israeli EL AL airline—will be inaugurated in March. A cultural agreement, which is now under expert review on the Israeli side, will be signed. This information was imparted to the CTK [Czechoslovak News Agency] correspondent in Cairo by Milos Pojar, Czechoslovak ambassador to Israel. He also announced that Israeli President Hayim Herzog would visit the CSFR in October 1991.

NRP Drops Unity Government Proposal

TA0101095391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jan 91 p 10

[Report by Sarah Honig and Michal Yudelman]

[Excerpt] The air was let out of the National Religious Party's [NRP] national-unity trial balloon yesterday when the NRP Knesset faction conceded that the notion was impractical now and called off a meeting scheduled this morning with Labor leaders.

The NRP had suggested that Labor representatives be co-opted to the aliya cabinet, so immigrant absorption would not be touched by political contention. However, political observers and NRP sources saw the move as a first step towards re-admitting Labor to the government, recreating a national unity coalition.

When the NRP first sent up its trial balloon last week, the idea was not rejected outright by either of the large parties. This gave rise to speculation that, with several crises facing the nation simultaneously, a renewed national unity government was a distinct possibility.

Labor and the Likud each made it clear that it was waiting for the other to make the first move. However, below the surface was strident opposition in both to reviving the government which Labor felled last spring.

Central Labor figures discounted the unity idea but said they would go ahead with the meeting for the sake of politeness. The NRP yesterday issued a statement calling off the meeting and saying it was not seeking meaningless gestures from Labor. [passage omitted]

'Controversial' Proposal Divides Labor Party

TA0201112091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] A controversial new initiative proposed yesterday by Labor doves for an unconditional withdrawal from the Gaza Strip has the party's hawkish members up in arms.

The initiative calls for withdrawal from the Gaza Strip within two years from the day Israel advises the UN Security Council of its intention to do so. According to the plan, Gaza will then be handed over to UN auspices or to a local government, whether or not negotiations with the Palestinians have started.

The doves, who drafted the proposal with Shinuy and the Citizen's Rights Movement [CRM], want to raise it at Labor's Political Bureau meeting scheduled in two weeks' time.

The initiative is supported by Labor MKs [Knesset Members] Hayim Ramon, Yosi Beilin, Arye (Lova) Eli'av, Avraham Burg, Amir Peretz and Nawaf Masaliha, as well as by Nisim Zvili who headed the party's last election campaign.

Ramon, who stressed that this proposal has nothing to do with Beilin's one-man "Gaza First" initiative of two weeks ago, said he believed that a majority of Labor members could support the idea of getting out of Gaza, while the main argument will focus on whether to leave the Strip before or after negotiations with the Palestinians had begun.

"While Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud maintain that Gaza is an inseparable part of Israel, we want Labor to pose a clear, unequivocal position—Gaza is not and will not be part of the State of Israel," Ramon said. "We must inform the Security Council that we're getting out of there, even one-sidedly, even if there is no one to talk to, just as we got out of Lebanon when staying there endangered Israel's security."

Labor hawks dismissed the proposal as "the doves' fortnightly attempt to gain the limelight." MK Mordekhay Gur said he objects to any move which is not linked to a settlement ensuring Israel's security and preventing Gaza from turning into an unstable region.

MK Mikha'el Bar-Zohar called the new initiative yet another attempt by party doves to go against the majority opinion in the party and against its platform. "They know perfectly well that the idea is a nonstarter and will get them nothing but media coverage."

Tzomet leaders said that the proposal is "a continuation of Labor's slide to the Left, towards a rift and a breaking up of what was once Israel's proud leading institution."

MKs Refa'el Eytan and Yo'ash Tzidon, as former Palmah men who grew up in the Labor movement, said they were "pained by watching this bitter process. Those following in the footsteps of Yitzhaq Tabenkin, Yigal Alon and Yitzhaq Sade must pay attention to Labor's new direction."

MK Ran Kohen (CRM) said that Israel's "continued rule over Gaza is incurring tremendous harm and damage—both military and economic—and endangers Israeli democracy." The CRM and Shinuy say that in addition to six or seven Labor MKs who support this proposal, it will also receive the support of Mapam and probably the Communist Party and Arab lists, who had no part in formulating it.

MK's Prohibited From Supporting Plan

TA0401110291 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by political correspondents Mikhal Yudelman and Sarah Honing]

[Excerpt] Labor Secretary-General Mikha Harish has prohibited young party radicals from co-sponsoring the Knesset motion by Shinuy's Amnon Rubinstein and the Citizens Rights Movement's Ran Kohen proposing that Israel unilaterally quit the Gaza Srip.

Harish stipulated yesterday that no Labor MK [Knesset Member] was free to co-sponsor the motion before the matter was taken up and resolved in the proper party forums. Harish is believed to have been expressing the party leadership's growing displeasure with what is considered a "ceaseless agitation" on Labor's left and as taking the occasion to rap party radicals—who themselves have come up with a similar proposal—on the knuckles.

There has been a spate of such dovish initiatives in recent weeks by Labor radicals, causing a furor within the party mainstream and hawkish factions who charged that the party's leftist MKs are alienating the already diminishing supporters of Labor.

Shinuy sources said yesterday that the draft proposal, which Labor's dovish MKs were asked to join, does not call for a unilateral or complete withdrawal from Gaza, but rather for a move in which Israel would retain a partial hold on the strip to ensure its security. The move would only be taken as part of overall talks for a peace settlement with an authorized Palestinian representation, they said. [passage omitted]

Party Calls For Cutback in Gaza Security Forces

TA0201160191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Shinuy's political committee is in favor of cutting back significantly on the number of security forces stationed in the Gaza Strip. This is apparent from the principles of a bill submitted by Shinuy Knesset Member [MK] Rubinstein and MK Ran Kohen of the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement]. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reported that the committee also decided that the presence of UN officials in the Gaza Strip was uncalled for, and therefore the clause dealing with that issue on the bill was changed.

Drop in Soviet Immigration Said Likely

TA0201113391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] The massive influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants—as many as 2,500 immigrants a day—is likely to drop to 1,000 a day, Jewish Agency head Simcha Dinitz has told the Zionist Executive.

Now that many of the Soviet Jews with valid exit visas are here or on their way, the number of immigrants to arrive will soon be limited by the 30,000 to 40,000 Soviet exit permits issued each month, Dinitz explained on Monday.

The massive influx of the last few weeks depended largely on a decision by thousands of Soviet Jews, who have held such visas for months, to use them now, he said. At the beginning of November, the size of this pool was estimated at about 150,000.

About 1.2 million Jews have begun the long bureaucratic process involved in receiving an Israeli visa and a Soviet exit permit.

Dinitz said that the Agency can handle up to 50,000 immigrants a month at its various way stations. Some 34,000 Soviet Jews immigrated in December.

Absorption officials give various reasons for the decision by those holding permits to use them now, including the increasing instability in the Soviet Union, the increase in the number of Jews using overland transport to get from the Soviet Union to the various transit points, and the fact that there are now more seats on planes leaving the USSR, because it is the middle of the winter.

Jews To Become Majority in Galilee in March 1991

TA0101105291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jan 91 p A3

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Tzvi Zerahya]

[Excerpt] A demographic change is taking place in the Galilee. In March 1991 that region will have a Jewish majority for the first time in many years, Economics and Planning Minister David Magen told the Knesset Economic Committee yesterday.

Magen said that some 28,000 immigrants have settled in the Galilee to date. The number of Jews has gone up to 388,000 and the demographic gap has been reduced, so that 49.5 percent of the Galilee's population is Jewish. He announced the establishment of the Galilee Development Authority, which will launch large projects to promote employment, housing, education, and welfare. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Intifadah Casualty Figures Reported

TA0201151791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jan 91 p A2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] From the start of the intifadah through the end of December 1990, 727 Palestinians were shot and killed by security forces in the territories. Of those, 692 were shot with live ammunition. This was reported yesterday by the Betzelem Information Center. Thirty-five Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli civilians and 10 by collaborators.

According to data issued by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman, during the same period 25 Israeli civilians, three female tourists, and six members of the security forces were killed within the Green Line by Palestinian residents of the territories. At least 15 Palestinians were killed by Israeli civilians and one was killed by a policeman. [passage omitted]

According to Betzelem, in December 1990 12 Palestinians were shot and killed in the territories by the security forces, five on the West Bank (including one who died of wounds sustained in March 1988) and seven in the Gaza Strip. Another Palestinian was apparently shot dead by a collaborator. [passage omitted]

The monthly figure for fatalities in Gaza in December was the highest since the beginning of the year. Four of the dead were shot last weekend in Rafah when soldiers ordered two masked men to halt and then opened fire when they tried to run away. After their deaths, unrest broke out, which led to two more deaths and hundreds of casualties. [passage omitted]

The al-Haqq organization said in response to the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip that if the territories continue to be handled according to Israel's understanding of international law, the lives of Palestinians will continue to be endangered. Al-Haqq, a Ramallah-based organization that monitors and reports on human rights, called on the signatories of the Geneva Convention to convene urgently and discuss ways to protect the Palestinians living in the territories.

The organization claims that in incidents in Rafah and Khan Yunus the number of casualties has reached 700, 20 of whom suffered serious injuries. Many of the casualties were hit by live ammunition, al-Haqq claims. It said the large number of casualties results from the change in policy on opening of fire in Gaza that began in July 1989, when the use of live ammunition on suspects carrying out illegal activities and on masked men was permitted. Two months later the policy was also adopted in the West Bank, and as a result there has been a dramatic increase in the number of masked men who have been killed. In October 1989, 13 of the 31 Palestinians killed by soldiers were masked.

Colonel Fined for Illegal Military Exports

TA0401100491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jan 91 p 18

[ITIM report]

[Text] Lt.-Col Ya'ir Klein (Res.), convicted of illegally exporting military know-how to Colombia, was given a one-year suspended sentence and fined NIS [New Israeli Shekel] 80,000 yesterday in Jerusalem Magistrates' Court.

His company, Hod Hahanit was fined an additional NIS 70,000.

Klein confessed to the charges against him: negotiating to export military expertise, exporting military know-how and weapons without a permit, and violating regulations concerning security services.

He admitted that he had negotiated the export of military expertise with a Colombian organization calling itself "The Cattle Raisers Association," and had given military training to some of its members. He had also negotiated with groups in Antigua and Panama.

Judge Miryam Bernstein rejected Klein's claim that the weapons and expertise he exported had not required a permit. She said the regulations he had violated were aimed at preventing military know-how from ending up in undesirable hands.

Bernstein said Klein's actions had done serious damage to Israel's reputation and its relations with foreign countries. "When a person who has a reputation as a senior commander in an elite IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit, sells the knowledge he has acquired in the IDF to foreign interests who are not approved, like a mercenary, serious damage is likely to be caused to the country's good name, the reputation of the IDF and to Israel's relations with foreign countries," she wrote in her decision.

Klein said he would appeal the decision. "If I'm ordered to pay the fine, I'd prefer to go to jail rather than take loans," he said.

Comptroller Notes 'Catastrophic Water Shortage'

TA0301080691 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jan 91 pp 1, 8

[Report by Ziv Hellman and David Rudge]

[Excerpt] The country is on the verge of a catastrophic water shortage after 25 years of irresponsible neglect of resources that represent the lifeblood of the nation, according to the report on the water economy issued yesterday by State Comptroller Miryam Ben-Porat.

The crisis has reached the point where even drinking water might be threatened if the present drought continues, despite plans to slash supplies to farmers, Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan warned in reaction to the report.

The 62-page document lambasts those responsible for managing the water economy over the past 25 years for allowing over-use which has resulted in the present "overdraft" of 1.6 billion cubic meters—the equivalent of the country's annual needs.

The report says that gross mismanagement has destroyed the country's water reserves and seriously damaged the quality of the water, and warns that Israel faces a very real danger of not being able to supply enough minimal-quality water to meet demand in the near future.

The damage caused to the country's reservoirs may be "irreparable" in some cases, the report charges, leaving future generations, especially farmers, with an expensive and difficult ecological and economic catastrophe.

Ben-Porat blames the catastrophe on a system that permits interested parties, such as the agricultural lobby, through its control of the powerful Knesset Water Committee, to make major decisions regarding the pricing, subsidizing, and allocation of water.

The comptroller therefore recommends that water management be removed from the Agriculture Ministry and put under the control of an objective state authority. Such a body would be concerned with the country's overall needs, and would not be influenced by vested interest groups. [passage omitted]

Khan Yunus Woman Killed, Six Hurt; Man Sentenced

TA0201155191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] A woman resident of Khan Yunus was killed today, apparently as a result of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire at demonstrators. Six other residents were injured. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reported that the body of the woman, Shuhab Hamdan Shaqra, approximately 30 years old, was brought this morning to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus.

The military court in Gaza sentenced a local resident, 28-year-old Haydar Matar, to life imprisonment and an additional 15 years in jail. He was convicted of leading a Fatah strike committee. He recruited approximately 20 others and equipped them with axes, knives, and chains. Matar was also convicted of beating residents who were suspected of collaborating with Israel, and of helping to murder Husni al-Shahin, who was suspected of collaboration, about six months ago.

Drop in Number of New AIDS Cases Recorded

TA0401111291 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Jan 91 p 15

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] During the first nine months of 1990, 15 new AIDS cases were discovered, and by the end of the year another five are expected. That is good news, because the figure is lower than the previous two years. The current trend contradicts forecasts which spoke about an increase in the number of new patients. [passage omitted]

The number of AIDS virus carriers in comparison to the number of afflicted people has grown tenfold in recent years and is now estimated at some 2,000, but the percentage of AIDS carriers in Israel is one of the lowest in the world: 0.001 percent.

Since 1986, when blood testing was introduced, there have been no AIDS patients among hemophiliacs. Of some 200,000 tested blood units, 25 AIDS-infected cases have been discovered.

Now the bad news: Not all the AIDS victims are registered and their real number is much higher than the official figures. Up to a month ago, 137 AIDS patients were registered in Israel, of whom 130 are men. [passage omitted] Eighty of the patients, 76 men and four women, died. It is estimated that for each person carrying the virus there is another whose condition is unknown. There are 539 virus carriers in Israel, of whom 80 percent will contract the disease during the next 12 years.

Some 33 percent of the AIDS patients are homosexuals, some 15 percent are drug addicts, 22 percent are hemophiliacs who contacted the disease from infected blood transfusions before 1986, 10 percent are defined as "others," and another 20 percent were said to be "unknown." The difference between the last two groups is unclear. [passage omitted]

House Speaker Explains Gulf Position

JN0301215491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Jawad al-'Umari dispatch from Parliament on the 3 January meeting between House of Representatives Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat and Gulf Cooperation Council ambassadors in Amman—recorded]

[Text] In his meeting with the ambassadors of Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait and the charge d'affairs of the Saudi and Bahraini embassies in Amman, Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, said that we, in this country, have suffered and faced a real danger, which is the Zionist danger, who have occupied our land and holy shrines and rendered our people homeless. He pointed out that the Jordanian people are the people most bound to their Arab and Muslim brothers. From their position in the foremost trench, they contribute toward stopping the aggression and expansion. This position has made our people aware of their nation's concerns, and now they contribute on an individual, group, and state level.

The House of Representatives speaker called for fairness toward Jordan and understanding for its stands and its efforts to unite Arab ranks, especially the efforts of his majesty the king since the beginning of the Gulf crisis.

Dr. 'Arabiyyat said: [Begin 'Arabiyyat recording] In fact, dear brothers, due to our understanding of this concept of the united nation and brotherhood that binds us all together, we do not differentiate between brothers. Stemming from our desire for goodwill for all, we are seeking to be brothers to all. However, dear brothers, throughout the long march of this nation and the western changes made to it, such as fragmenting it and planting the seeds of suspicion in its soil, many problems have been created that turn one brother against the other. They fragment the one family. They have done so in the past and are plotting now to do this once again. Our enemies divided and ruled us for over one century. They are now plotting for a further century. [end 'Arabiyyat recording]

During the meeting, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman also delivered a speech and praised the strong relations between Jordan and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries. In his speech he noted the sufferings of our nation such as partition and fragmentation. He called for avoiding barren discussions and arguments that only increase division among the ranks of the nation and give the foreigner the chance to combat us from the inside.

Hasan on U.S. Rhetoric, Hidden Agenda

JN0301204491 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Questions and answers in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] Speaking to a team of Italian journalists in Amman today, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, stressed the need to apply one standard to international legitimacy. His highness called for initiating Arab-European dialogue and reestablishing it on better foundations so as to include the EC nations and the non-oil Arab states as well as the oil producers. His highness emphasized the need to give equal importance to Resolutions 667 on the Gulf crisis and 681 on the Palestine issue passed recently by the UN Security Council—never mind that the said resolution was symbolic, especially regarding the article on the international peace conference.

[Begin recording] [Reporter, in progress] ...that Iraq should quit Kuwait?

[Hasan] I think very clearly that this is a position that should be understood by all—that unless the principle of non- acquisition of territory by force and illegal annexation being totally unacceptable to the international community—unless this principle is understood, then we cannot move towards a new political phase internationally. Now, of course whether this principle is applied as effectively as it should be in all instances internationally, now, and tomorrow and in six months and in one year where the possibility of the recurrence of such acts could attract not concern from the international community, but yawns of boredom particularly if the case of occupation is in countries of lesser strategic importance, we don't know. But do we think we have committed ourselves officially to this position? We have committed ourselves nationally to this position, because we cannot accept occupation paying in a case closer to home and of long-standing origin—the case of the occupation of Palestinian territories. We have been deliberately misrepresented. We have been deliberately pilloried and victimized, simply because we believe that this achievement—the withdrawal of Iraqi forces—should be achieved by political means, and in particular there should be an Arab contribution to this achievement. And this is in contradiction, I hasten to add, with the United Nations resolutions. The irony is that it is a part of United Nations resolutions. Withdrawal should lead to an understanding between the Arabs.

[Reporter] Yesterday a special envoy of President Mitterrand arrived in Amman. What do you think about this mission, and did you meet him?

[Hasan] I did not meet Monsieur Vauzelle. I understand from what I have read that his mission is an exploratory mission. I would not like to comment more than he has. I believe he is there to once again explore the Iraqi position. But apart from that, what I can say, effectively, is that all visitors to Iraq whom I have met, of many different nationalities, have reiterated, reaffirmed the Iraqi desire for a political settlement and the Iraqi readiness to move in conformity with international legal norms as stipulated by United Nations resolutions. However, this can only be achieved if the intimidation and the threats and the escalation of rhetoric and the very personalized attacks subside. So if you see in the weeks... [changes thought] We don't have weeks now, we are talking of the days ahead, a continuation effectively of the very shrill, very nervous statements being made—and, I am sad to say in particular in the United States—concerning the Iraqi leadership, concerning the hidden agenda. Let us be very clear about it. When I say hidden agenda, the objective of the movement of the international forces was [number] one the defense of Saudi Arabia, and surely this has been achieved. Two, the restoration of Kuwait, and we believe this still can be achieved through political means. Three is not very clear to me and there I refer to weapons of mass destruction. I refer to destroying the Iraqi Army. I refer to, as one writer put it, the policy of decapitation. So what are we talking about effectively, in terms of this gray area? So I hope that this gray area, this nightmare can be contained by a minimum, effectively, of shrill and strident statements and a minimum of further threats and intimidation and a maximum of responsible, effective diplomacy at this very last moment before we are all engulfed in a massive conflagration. [end recording]

Editorial Comments on 'Aziz-Baker Meeting

*JN0401103891 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 Jan 91 p 1*

[Editorial: "The Proposed 'Aziz-Baker Meeting"]

[Text] Whether it came from the United States or from Switzerland, the proposal for a meeting between the U.S. and Iraqi foreign ministers in Switzerland was welcomed internationally by His Majesty King Husayn and British Prime Minister John Major during their meeting in London yesterday. Western news agencies had earlier hinted that it had been Switzerland which had proposed to Baghdad and Washington that high-level talks be held there.

If Bush preferred to adopt the proposal and declare it himself, then there is no harm, whether his motive was to improve his image or to comfort U.S. and international arenas, which continue to express mounting concern about the possibility of war in the region. What really counts is that Washington show an earnest intent to have Baker and 'Aziz hold an equal and productive meeting.

In light of this, we perhaps must be cautious in our view of Bush's repeated assertions that the proposed meeting will not be for negotiation or compromise! Whether meant as a face-saving move or to drive Iraq into refusing the proposal and, consequently, claim that Baghdad was responsible for closing the door to the meeting, we should note that the proposal came only one day before the scheduled meeting of the EC foreign ministers, which is expected to assign the foreign minister of Luxembourg a role to play in Baghdad. This means that Washington is perhaps trying to forestall the European role and ensure full U.S. control over the Gulf crisis. Such a possibility clearly requires much vigilance. Indeed, the truth about it may come out in light of Washington's practices if the 'Aziz-Baker meeting does take place.

It should perhaps be stressed that Bush's proposal should not prevent the EC from performing its role, especially if it entails positive ideas. Such an European role, clearly, would facilitate a relaxation in the crisis, and, at the same time, prevent Washington from holding all the keys. This would guarantee that Washington will not make a hasty decision that drags the region and the world to undesirable consequences.

It is true that an 'Aziz-Baker meeting, if held, will in itself be an important development. What is more important, however, is that Washington give the two ministers room to work and create a healthy climate for the meeting, removed from threats and warnings, if the crisis is to move toward relaxation.

U.S. Talks Offer 'Precious Gain' for Iraq

*JN0401095191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Jan 90 p 1*

[Editorial: "An Expected U.S. Turnabout"]

[Text] As expected, the United States gave up its old arrogant offer and publicly declared interest in holding a high-level dialogue with Iraq in the middle of the road between Baghdad and Washington, with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Although the new offer reaffirms U.S. constraints on the Gulf crisis, it very clearly reflects deep, troubled feelings on the part of the U.S. decisionmakers, who found no other choice other than acting swiftly to save the credibility of America's threats of war at midnight on 15 January.

The quick turnabout toward dialogue with Iraq emphasizes to all those who were betrayed by their nerves that the will to fight and be steadfast is what pushed the Americans to reconsider their policy of intimidation and shrill language, and to start knocking on the door of dialogue, after Washington had banned its allies from holding any serious political contact with Baghdad.

We view the latest U.S. offer as an important, positive step in the accelerating developments in the Gulf crisis. We also believe that the offer is a practical response to all sincere appeals, in the United States and abroad, to arrest the plunge toward war and bloody conflagration and replace it by serious dialogue and negotiated settlements.

Dialogue with Iraq, whether by the United States or Europe, is a precious political gain for Iraq, which rejects the policy of intimidation and extortion. What is more precious, however, is that these transformations in the position of the Atlantic alliance lead to tangible progress toward the achievement of a negotiated solution to all long-standing crises in the Middle East. This would end a nightmare that has continued to horrify the world for more than five months.

We urge imminent Western dialogue with Iraq to take place in parallel with inter-Arab dialogue to bolster the chances for peace and spare the Arab region and its people the calamity of war, which, if it breaks out, will have the Arab world as the stage and our sons as the fuel.

Is there anyone who realizes the extent of the disaster, should it occur? Is there anyone who fears history's curse if he joins the new crusaders in their invasion of our homeland and their war against us?

Reportage on King Husayn's Visit to London

WA0201175990

For reportage on the visit by King Husayn to London, including reports on his talks with Prime Minister John Major, please see the United Kingdom section of the 3 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

UK Officials Comment on Advice to Nationals

JN0301125591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Jan 91 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—A statement issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Wednesday advised British citizens in Jordan and Yemen to "leave the two countries well before the deadline of January 15 which has been set by the U.N. Security Council for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait."

British officials here say that the statement is a precautinary measure and marks no drastic revision from the advice issued by the British embassy here to British nationals at the end of September.

"This advice was already issued to our nationals a while back and it really applies only to dependents and families; it is not intended to affect working relationship and business," Henry Hogger, the consul general at the British embassy, told the Jordan Times.

About 400 British citizens currently reside in Jordan; about half of them are women and children.

"We can't tell our citizens what to do but we are advising them," Hogger added.

He said the advice comes in line with usual foreign office procedure in areas of possible conflict, but said the statement in no way meant that "there will be war."

According to another embassy official, the Foreign Office does not fear that war may break out in Jordan but that if hostilities break out in the Gulf British nationals may be exposed to anti-British sentiments because of their government's position in the Gulf crisis.

"We have contacted the Public Security Department (PSD) and they would provide protection to British nationals if need be," he said.

The renewed advice comes less than a week after the State Department in Washington issued similar advice to American citizens in Jordan, Yemen and Mauritania.

The British Foreign office issued similar advice to its citizens in Bahrain, Qatar and some parts of Saudi Arabia.

About 250 Britons currently reside in Yemen, of whome 30 are dependents.

Karami Comments on Disbanding Various Militias

NC0401130491 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Excerpt] In an interview with REUTER today, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said that Lebanon needs Arab assistance to disband the various militias. He rejected demands submitted by the christian militias, noting that their demands harm the al-Ta'if Accord for peace in Lebanon.

To a question about disbanding the rival militias in Lebanon—a matter which constitutes a main point in the program of his government which was formed on 24 December 1990—Prime Minister Karami said: As for the issue of militias, as a government we admit that we alone cannot resolve this issue. But through consultations with the Arab League, which entrusted the tripartite committee to help Lebanon achieve peace and national accord, and the international-Arab-Syrian agreement, we may be able to accomplish this task. We are certain that these sides will help us overcome this stage.

Prime Minister Karami said he was taken aback by the rejections of the Lebanese Forces' militias, particularly their remark that this government is not balanced, although everyone knew which militias will be represented by these forces. Prime Minister Karami was responding to a question about his stand on the Lebanese Forces' rejection of the new government and the refusal of Samir Ja'ja' and Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah to join the government. He said that all these objections are not fair. If there are any objections, these should be discussed during the cabinet meetings, the prime minister added.

Prime Minister Karami went on to say: Frankly speaking, accepting any of their demands would mean harming the al-Ta'if Accord and robbing it of its contents. Therefore, proceeding from this premise, we reject these proposals because we are committed to the al-Ta'if Accord. He said: We are among those who had many reservations on al-Ta'if Accord because there is no way that we can modernize the state and make it play its real role except through the cancellation of political sectarianism, and the al-Ta'if Accord failed to stipulate the cancellation of the political sectarianism in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Lahd Views Army Deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0301182691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has said that he does not object to the deployment of the Lebanese Army in Iqlim al-Tuffah as long as the Army undertakes to purge this region of terrorist organizations. In an interview with his radio, Lahd said that if the Lebanese Army fails to do this, then the SLA will have to treat the Army as a terrorist organization.

According to the SLA radio, Lahd made these remarks in the presense of Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens who is touring the border strip together with Yosi Peled, commander of the northern command of the Israeli Army.

Hizballah Leader Husayn Musawi Interviewed

NC2912193090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 22 Dec 90 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Hizballah Leader Husayn Musawi by KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in Tehran in "early December"]

[Text] Tehran, Dec 21 (KAYHAN INT'L)—KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL: What will be the future of Hizballah and Islamic movements in Lebanon considering the fact that the Lebanese government has decided to disarm all groups and militias? How will Hizballah react towards the current disarming program? Will Hizballah surrender its arms to the Syrian troops or the Lebanese government?

Husayn Musawi: Hizballah took arms for self defense purposes. When the army takes up the role of maintaining security and dealing with all the groups in Lebanon justly and equally, then there will be no problem with respect to giving up our weapons. Originally these weapons that we have, we used them against the Zionists in the south of Lebanon. Thus we are not against the establishment of peace and stability in Beirut, or letting people live peacefully and to stop fighting among the armed organizations in Beirut. What we want is to mobilize all groups to fight against Israel.

As for the delivery of our weapons to either the Lebanese government or the Syrian troops, neither the Lebanese government nor the Syrian army has asked us to surrender our weapons. The weapons of Hizballah and all other organizations have been transferred out of Beirut. Every organization has taken its arms to areas where the organization feels it needs them most. Hizballah has transferred its weapons to western al-Biqa'. Some of the Hizballah weapons may be handed over to the Islamic forces in the south of Lebanon to fight Israel. Some of our weapons have been given to the Lebanese government, but the Syrians never asked us to give them our arms.

The activities of the Lebanese state are being monitored by us. If this new government can give the people what they fought for, then neither us nor any other organization should object to the policies of the state. Our first task is to fight against Israel. But if the new government fails to establish security and to achieve what people want, then the duty of every organization is to defend its security and to maintain the security of the people who are connected with that organization as well.

Q: At what stage is President al-Hirawi's program for establishment of a greater Beirut?

A: The Lebanese government headed by Ilyas al-Hirawi is trying to put greater Beirut under legitimate control.

The militias have evacuated their forces from Beirut and the Lebanese army troops have replaced them. In greater Beirut, which is situated between the al Damur and al-Kalb Rivers and as I said, the experiment of the army is now under surveillance. [sentence as published] The Lebanese government represented by the Lebanese army is now in charge of maintaining the security of the capital. Until now we have not heard of any problem or hindrance in the process of implementing the disarmament plan in greater Beirut. But we did hear that the position of the Lebanese authorities represented in the Lebanese army has not been at the same level which is reflected in the Lebanese media.

The citizens are noting now that the position of the army is not what they were expecting. This makes the situation critical and open to any new change or possibility. But for us as we have said before, we do not object to the activities of the army for establishing security and stability for the citizens, so that we and other loyal groups can have time to fight Israel.

Q: On Sept. 12 you told the Reuters News Agency that the prospect for the freedom of hostages is hopeful. Has there been any new development for the freedom of hostages in Lebanon since then?

A: Here I want to explain a very important point. Unfortunately some people still think that I personally am concerned with the hostage problem. I think that the American and European intelligence services as well as those countries concerned with the hostage issue, know that I am not related to the hostage problem at all. But if I am asked a question I will answer it. That means I am concerned with the question of hostages in the nature of questions that are asked from me by the journalists, not more than that.

As I have said if the intelligence agencies are concerned with the question of hostages, if they are able, or powerful, or they have reliable information they have to know that I am very far from the question of hostages. I only answer questions that are put forward to me. These intelligence agencies fully know who is responsible for the hostages. There are Muslim security groups that are in Beirut and Hizballah has no relationship or ties whatsoever with these groups. The Islamic Amal neither detained hostages, nor is responsible for their release.

We have said in the past that there was a possibility of the emancipation of some of the hostages through the dialogue between some of the Europeans on one hand and our Syrian and Iranian brothers on the other hand. There is an attempt at cooperation with our brothers in Iran and Syria, as well as some Europeans who are concerned with this issue.

As the result of this and on the basis of the statements released in some of the capitals, we said that there is a possibility that some of the British hostages will be released. This occurred when Britain tried to improve its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Muslims in general. London also tried to improve its ties with Damascus. Britain is improving relationship with Iran and Syria and it is related to the fact that Tehran and Damascus both have great influence over some of the Islamic groups that are detaining the hostages, but as you may observe so far nothing has happened. We do not know what will happen in the future.

Q: How is your relationship with the present Maronite government in Lebanon?

A: As the present government is now acting in harmony and cooperation with Syria, it makes use of the instructions and advice of President Hafiz al-Asad. Actually up to now we have no relationship with this government, save thorugh the supervision of Syria over this government and its activities. Since we are an ally of Syria, we are somehow obliged to give a chance to this government so it can prove its ability to govern the country properly. Mutual interest will emerge from the government for the Lebanese and for the opposition groups because President al-Hirawi has said that he is interested in ousting the Israelis from southern Lebanon. For us there is nothing more important than this issue.

But that depends on resolution 425. All they say is that it can be implemented when Israel withdraws from the south of Lebanon. But we believe Israel will not adhere to resolution 425 and it will not evacuate southern Lebanon, or any of our holy lands, except by force.

The Lebanese army after going to the south of Lebanon will be able to cooperate with the Islamic and national opposition groups, to fight Israel. We hope that the Lebanese army will not be interested in maintaining security for Israel.

If the task of the Lebanese army will be otherwise, it means that we will be in disagreement with the Lebanese government which is responsible for the army.

Q: Taking into consideration the current crisis in the Persian Gulf, will Hizballah intensify its anti-Israeli operations if war breaks out between Iraqi and American forces?

A: Hizballah is responsible to step up its operations against Israel always and everywhere. When the war breaks out between Iraq and America, then Israel will be in state of war along with the U.S. against the Muslim people of Iraq. We are part of this Muslim Ummah which has to defend its existence, because if Iraq falls in the hands of the Americans, our situation will be aggravated regardless of Saddam's status.

We are among the people who believe Saddam is the enemy of Allah and he should be overthrown. But that does not mean that Iraq should fall in the hands of the Americans. Saddam was an agent for the Americans and he should be overthrown. But this has nothing to do with the Iraqi people. Stepping up our operations against Israel is a legitimate and religious duty like praying and fasting.

Q: On November 16, Shaykh Fadlallah said, "We should work towards closing the file of the unjustly held hostages and captives, whether they are Iranian, American, European or Lebanese." Considering the fact that the Phalangists have announced all Iranian hostages are dead, does Shaykh Fadlallah's statement mean that western hostages (including Americans) will be released soon?

A: Shaykh Fadlallah is currently in Tehran (Dec. 4-6, 1990) You can ask your question directly from him.

Q: President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at one of his press conferences said that Iran has some documents which prove Iranian hostages are alive. Do you have any information about such documents? What do you know about Iranian hostages in Lebanon?

A: As far as I know about the Iranian hostages, Samir Ja'ja previously said Elie Hubayqah held our Mujahid and faithful Iranian brothers. Elie Hubayqah said that Samir Ja'ja himself was responsible for the fate of the Iranian hostages. That means that they were lying and until now they have not submitted any proof about the death of our Iranian brothers.

Apart from not being able to present proof about their death, they did not show the corpses of the hostages. So we think they are still alive and they are being detained by the Phalangists including Samir Ja'ja, Elie Hubayqah and others. They are responsible for the life of our Iranian Brothers. So the truth is found and we pray to Allah that they are alive and we can see them in future.

Q: What is your stance vis-a-vis a permanent peace in Lebanon? What are your justifications for a permanent peace in your country?

A: First of all we cannot imagine a permament peace in Lebanon. There is an eminent war in Lebanon and the signs of this war are enormous. The stability in the region means stability in Lebanon. There can be no way of separating the crisis in Lebanon from the crisis in the whole region. We think a peaceful solution to the crisis in the region is temporary. Secondly how can we imagine a permament peace in the region while Israel is in existence? As long as Israel exists, there is fighting and there are differences in the region. Israel is trying to expand its borders and to invade more territories. While more Jews are migrating to Palestine, the Israeli government is trying to provide them with lands which belong to Palestinians. This means that the Israelis are declaring a permament war against Lebanon and the people in the region.

On our part we do not accept any peace as long as Israel is in existence and Israel must be obliterated. This means that our struggle has to be continued against Israel. So there will be no permanent peace with Israel at all but the present situation is a truce which may last for a long period or a short one.

Q: Considering the new global order in the world, in your opinion will the position of Lebanon be a center of tranquility or a chaotic place for keeping the anti-Israel forces busy fighting each other?

A: The new world order, through which Washington is trying to shape a new world order for expanding its influence in the Islamic countries. We hope that the Islamic Republic with the cooperation of Syria and Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine, as well as all Muslims throughout the world, will be able to establish an Islamic world order. This can prevent the U.S. from imposing its power and order on Muslims. In this regard we hope that all Muslims cooperate with Iran, because Imam Khomeyni's path is still continuing. This path is being continued by the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i. We hope the Muslims will be able to stand up against their enemies.

In Lebanon there is no stability at all so we cannot imagine there would be peace there. The whole region should prepare itself to fight against Israel. There is the Intifadah within occupied Palestine and Islamic opposition in the south of Lebanon. Inshallah, the other Islamic borders will be opened in future, so Israel will feel that is is surrounded by the Mujahidin and Muslims everywhere. Then we will be able to implement the promise of Allah (Praise be to him) concerning the destruction of Israel by the power and grace of Allah. Then we can pray behind Imam Mahdi (A.S.) [God's peace be upon him] after his appearance.

Al-Asad Returns From Libyan Quadripartite Summit

JN0401055991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus from Misratah in Libya at an early hour this morning where a quadripartite summit was held between his excellency; His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution in Libya; and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Council in the Republic of Sudan.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned home with his excellency the president.

The summit talks dealt with the Gulf crisis, as well as its development and regional and international repercussions.

Arab Future Said at Stake

JN0401074991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article headlined "The Arab Move and the Responsibility of Pan-Arab Security," AL-BA'TH states: The Arab situation requires the convergence of honest efforts to save the Arab future from the unknown as a result of the Iraqi regime's act. This made Misratah necessary not to define positions of disorder in the Arab situation, because they are clear, but to avoid dragging a whole nation to the abyss of a fire, with the Arab land turned into a battlefield, that will only end when the nation's components are destroyed.

The paper adds: Salvation and the surrounding circumstances might be difficult, but removing difficulties is the responsibility of those who are more attuned to the truth. And this leads us to the wisdom and powers of observation of honest leader Hafiz al-Asad, who has always been concerned with placing pan-Arab security at the top of priorities in his moves and efforts.

AL-BA'TH adds: The new move comes within the framework of the common efforts to save pan-Arab security from a catastrophe. Although the Iraqi position is the obstacle, the Arabs, nevertheless, have not lost the ability to create that which safeguards their security. And because defending the Arab future requires, at the same time, defending Iraq's capabilities, it means that the danger is the Iraqi regime alone. It also means that Iraq must be saved from a risk that will lead the nation to the unknown. As the Arabs shoulder a responsibility in these circumstances, the people and Army of Iraq also shoulder a big responsibility that should be assumed and taken into account before the catastrophe occurs.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Now that the days are passing and the deadline is drawing near, the Arab move should be at the level of pan-Arab security requirements.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Discuss 'Issues' Over Phone

JN0201162191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 2 Jan (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad this morning received a telephone call from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt. They discussed some Arab issues.

Ba'th Official Receives Iraqi Opposition Group

JN0301185291 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 3 Jan (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here today members of the Iraqi opposition leadership's secretariat office, including brothers Jalal Talabani, Muhammad Mahandari, Abu-Isra' Mamaliki, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahim, Majdi al-'Ubaydi, and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Safi.

Talks during the meeting, which takes place after the joint action charter of the Iraqi opposition was signed last week, centered on the Arabian Gulf crisis and its effects since the Iraqi invasion and annexation of, and refusal to withdraw from Kuwait, as well as the effects of this on the Iraqi people, such as exposing them to dangers and catastrophes.

Talks also centered on the role of the Iraqi opposition in saving Iraq from the dangers of possible war if the Iraqi regime continues to follow the stubborn position of refusing to withdraw from Kuwait.

The representatives of the opposition forces expressed their concern and continued action for Iraq's unity and security, and to provide the appropriate circumstances to guarantee justice and equality for the Iraqi people and preserve the strong ties between Kuwait and Iraq within the framework of Arab brotherhood without opposition and force.

They also expressed their concern to employ Iraq's role and strength to confront the dangers the Arab nation is being exposed to through the continuing Zionist aggression, and to contribute toward bolstering Arab and Islamic power to restore the occupied Arab lands and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The representatives of the Iraqi opposition expressed their gratitude to Syria—leadership and people—on its stands and concern for the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people in its pan-Arab position on the Gulf crisis and other crucial issues.

'Exclusive Quality' of Arab Gulf Efforts Stressed

JN0301192991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] As the year begins and amid the clouds that the pessimists are releasing over the Gulf, and the patch of blue that grows or shrinks in the eyes of the optimists, the real picture is actually more ominous and more disturbing than ever. Despite all the repercussions of the crisis over the past five months, the Baghdad rulers continue to plunge their feet deeper into the quagmire of their invasion, ignoring the voice of the world, which has rushed from inside and outside the Arab region to deliver them from the abyss to which they pushed Iraq and to save Kuwait from the plight they imposed on it by force of arms, supported only by falsehood.

And despite the unity that has been effected among our Arab voices and the voices of the governments and peoples around us, expressing the stand on the crisis and its results, the Arab efforts to extinguish the fire of the crisis and stop its deterioration are of special significance. They go to the core of the problem, which is an inter-Arab issue in which the culprit is an Arab Iraqi and the victim is Arab Kuwaiti, and in which the threat endangers the Arabs most of all, and is aimed against their solidarity, unity, and traditions of solving their differences within the same Arab family.

Therefore, from the first days of the invasion, the Arabs, with Syria at the forefront, rushed to contain the effects of the crisis and prevent it from becoming an Arab crisis. The aim of Syria and the Arabs was to maintain this custom, which is peculiar to the Arabs when they deal with an Arab issue and which is mainly connected with pan-Arab interests. The yardstick by which the Arab efforts were measured was the yardstick of justice, which rules that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally and that the legitimate Kuwaiti Government should immediately return to it.

And because the Baghdad regime has always turned a cold shoulder to our pan-Arab interests, being fond of wars designed to raise a clamor and seeking false fame, it ignored Arab voices and efforts until the situation deteriorated and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait became an international crisis causing consternation throughout the world, which has rejected the invasion and demanded Iraq's withdrawal through official UN resolutions.

Over the past few months, the Arabs have been able to create harmony and unity between their position and the international position on the Gulf crisis. However, Arab efforts, which have not stopped for one day, continue to have an exclusive quality on which we rely heavily and on which the Arabs pin broad hopes. Those who have followed these efforts and monitored their course have perhaps realized that Syria has been contributing the biggest share in terms of ideas and action, beginning with its call for the emergency Arab summit on the first day of the invasion, passing through the emergency Arab summit, and ending with the various meetings and consultations in the Arab arena and in Damascus at various times. This is because we believe that the threats to the Arabs and the disasters that would afflict Iraqi territory, people, and army demand that we pool all our energies to stop the conflagration that the Baghdad regime is recklessly causing with utter irresponsibility, and along whose mine-strewn path the Iraqi rulers are driving our Iraqi people toward an inferno that is hard to imagine.

Daily Calls For Arab Role To Contain Crisis

JN0401095991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 4 Jan (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial today that every day that goes by before the Security Council deadline contained in Resolution 678 increases the Arabs' concerns and fears that the military explosion may stand as the option to resolve the Gulf crisis if diplomatic efforts fail to bring about a solution based on Iraq's withdrawal by 15 January.

The seriousness of the military option, explains the paper, lies in its outcome and implications for Iraq and the Arabs in general. The paper stresses that the results of the war will leave Israel as the only winner because any Arab weakness, irrespective of the causes, will ultimately play into Israel's hands.

The paper adds that a peaceful solution is essential for Iraq's national interest and the pan-Arab interest as a whole. Such a solution would prevent the expected explosion and save Iraq and the region from tragic consequences.

The way to push this solution forward, says AL-THAWRAH, starts with the Arabs playing a major role to contain the crisis and prevent its escalation into a war. This is essentially an Arab-Arab crisis, between two Arab parties and on part of Arab territory.

In conclusion, the paper says Iraq should allow its national interests and the Arab nation's higher interests to take precedence over all other objectives that may greatly harm Iraq and the entire region.

'All Available Pressures' on Iraq Urged

JN0401151291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, never before in ancient or modern history has the world experienced anything like what the Gulf crisis is going through today, after five months of tension, strain, the massing of military equipment, the echoing of the trumpet of war, and the placement of the whole region on the verge of the worst possibilities, whose outcome cannot be estimated and whose results cannot be calculated by any experienced or sane person.

The whole world, while 11 days away from the 15th of January, is raising the olive branch and waving it at the rulers of Baghdad with every possible means of clarity, available language, and logical and credible formula. Iraq's regime continues to be frozen within the murderous box that it has not left since 2 August, while announcing to those near and far, mediators and sane people, friend and foe alike, that Kuwait is the 19th governorate in today's Iraq, without any change, alteration, withdrawal, or review.

To the Arabs in their various locations—to those who loudly condemned the invasion and hastened to oppose it with every possible peace proposal, and to those who remained quiet about the invasion and found various justifications—we say that all the Arabs have hastened to widen the path of peace and narrow the opportunity for war for the Iraqi Government, which has gambled with the security of the whole region, deviated from Arab charters, and violated international law.

The Government of Iraq has found no response so far to all the Arabs other than to cling to its action, persist in its crime, and pour oil on the fire of the worst volcano in history that threatens to explode on Arab land. After the crisis was internationalized, various European circles opened every possible door to the Baghdad regime to review its accounts and withdraw from Kuwait, so that its legitimate government can return, and so that the issue of Kuwait's self-determination can be left to the Kuwaitis themselves.

The Iraqi regime rejects and is spiking the wheels of any initiative or idea that leads to peace and blocks the road of war. All official and voluntary envoys of East and West have called for peace in the region through patience, quiet diplomacy, and through continuous calls for dialogue, ever since the specter of war arose and the gap widened between the logic of the invader and the victim, between justice and opposition. The Baghdad government is pushing hundreds of thousands of Iraqis toward the hell it chose for them, and accepts no alternative.

Has something like this ever taken place in the history of nations and peoples? Does the world remember a chapter in its history where the aggressor rejected peace unless that peace was employed to approve its aggression and accept its crime, even if it sacrificed hundreds of thousands of people to defend its injustice? Has it ever happened before in the history of nations and peoples that the whole world stood on one bank waving the banner of peace and calling for the implementation of the laws of justice, while a single ruler stood alone on the opposite bank portending war and threatening destruction and death to his people, and his nation above all, to satisfy his lust for power and self-conceit?

We are certain that what the Gulf crisis is going through today is one of the most tragic chapters in the history of the region, and that the efforts of the whole world, headed by the efforts of the Arabs, should join with all available pressures so that the Baghdad regime will review its accounts and heed the voice of reason—which the world's voice has gone hoarse repeating—and withdraw its troops from Kuwait and give both the Iraqis and the Kuwaitis security and peace of mind after both Iraq and Kuwait have been transformed into a huge prison in which innocent people are awaiting the flames of war to flare up on every side.

Therefore, Syria, in the person of its leader al-Asad, has not let one chance slip by without expressing its opinion and wisdom on defusing the explosive situation to which the rulers of Iraq have brought us, whether on the Arab or international levels. It has set before its eyes the interests of the whole nation, foremost of which are Iraq's interests, and in doing so has adhered to Arab charters and international law and has remained loyal to its belief that the image of justice and fairness is the same anywhere in the world where the balance of justice has been tampered with and the principles of justice have been violated. It does so because the Syria of principles, under the leadership of al-Asad, was never one to betray its principles, even if the one concerned was one of its brothers.

India

Shekhar Says Communal Situation 'Serious'

BK0401093291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said that the government is prepared to meet any challenge to maintain the unity and integrity of the country. He asserted that the government will not be cowed down by threats. But at the same time, [it] will not stand on prestige and will take all steps to stop killings and maintain communal harmony. He was replying to the two-day discussion on the communal situation in the country.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar pointed out that the communal situation in the country is very serious. The controversy over the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue is the root cause of the present surcharged atmosphere. He appealed to both the communities to settle the issue amicably through negotiations. He welcomed members' suggestion to set up a special force to deal with the communal disturbances and informed the house that Uttar Pradesh [UP] and Gujarat governments have set up such forces and some other states are also initiating action in this regard. Referring to the criticism against the UP Government for its handling of the communal disturbances, he said the chief minister did an excellent job under the trying conditions. He also urged the members not to blame the whole PAC [Provincial Armed Constabulary] in the state for lapses of some policemen.

On the criticism of appeasement of minorities, the prime minister said even the Constitution provides some concessions to them to remove apprehension from their minds. He also said it is the responsibility of both the majority community and the government to instill confidence in the minds of minorities. He made it amply clear that the government will not tolerate talk of inviting any force to deal with internal disturbances. He asserted that the government is fully capable of handling the situation.

Threat to Speaker 'Paralyzes' Parliament

BK0301125791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha was virtually paralyzed today over the issue of the alleged threat to the speaker by the law minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy. The house did not transact any business and had to be adjourned three times amidst noisy scenes. The speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, who finally adjourned the house one and half hours before time, announced that leaders of various political parties are in consultation to arrive at a consensus on the matter.

For the second day, today the opposition members were exercised over the reported threat by Dr. Swamy that he would get the speaker arrested over the disqualification issue involving Janata Dal rebel members. As the house assembled this morning, they did not allow the question-hour to be taken up demanding Dr. Swamy's resignation and arrest. Some of them moved in to the well of the house shouting slogans. The speaker adjourned the proceedings for half an hour as his repeated appeals for order went unheeded. When the house reassembled, the speaker called Dr. Swamy to speak, but opposition members were again up on their feet shouting slogans. The speaker asked the members to listen to what Dr. Swamy had to say. But opposition members insisted that the censure motion against Dr. Swamy be taken up immediately for discussion. They demanded that Dr. Swamy should not be allowed to enter the Lok Sabha till the issue is sorted out. Some members were seen displaying photocopies of a Bombay news magazine carrying the allegation against Dr. Swamy. Uproar continued till the lunch-hour and after the break the speaker again adjourned the house till 1630. When members reassembled, Mr. Rabi Ray informed them that he is adjourning the house for the day at the request of the leaders of various parties who want some more time for consultations.

Akali Dal-Mann Suggests Conference on Punjab

BK0401032591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann president, Mr. S. S. Mann, has suggested a roundtable conference of all national political parties to discuss the memorandum submitted by him to the prime minister on the Punjab issue. Addressing a press conference in (Jalumbur) yesterday, Mr. Mann said the thrust of his 90-minute dialogue with Mr. Chandra Shekhar was on solving the Punjab issue across the table. However, he added, negotiations cannot be fruitful unless the militants are associated with the talks. Mr. Mann informed newsmen that his party colleagues have endorsed the parleys that he had with Mr. Chandra Shekhar.

Kashmir Governor Urges Parties To Fill Void

BK0401034291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Girish Saxena, has said that the time is right for initiating a political process in the trouble-torn state as the situation now is well contained. In an interview to the PTI, he said that the mood of the people in the state is turning against militancy and that it is essential that political parties come forward to fill the political vacuum. [Hong Kong AFP in English at 1756 GMT on 3 January carries an item datelined New Delhi which adds: "The governor said the Kashmir administration had opened "lines of communication" with Moslem militants, but added that peace talks were possible only if they laid down their arms and agreed to negotiate with the government under the framework of the Indian constitution. At the moment, "not many militants were ready to take the plunge," he was quoted as saying."]

89 'Antinational Elements' Arrested in Kashmir

BK0301130191 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, the Army have intensified patrolling within the five km area from the actual Line of Control. Eighty-nine antinational elements have been recently arrested. The deputy commander of the Army in Kupwara sector spoke to our correspondent Brijesh Kumar.

[Begin recording] [Deputy commander] Recently, our troops deployed in the Kupwara sector have had a major success in which they apprehended 89 antinational elements along with their weapons. These persons have come from across the Line of Control after having received training from across the border. Three of these antinational elements were killed in an encounter with our troops and these given to understand [as heard] to us that an unspecified number perished in an avalanche prior to their encounter with our troops.

[Kumar] What sort of weapons and other things have you captured from these antinational elements?

[Deputy commander] From this gang of [as heard] in which we killed three and apprehended 89, a total of 113 weapons were captured, which includes seven universal machine guns, seven rocket launchers, 49 AK-47 assault rifles, and 50 pistols aside from lot of ammunition and warlike equipment. [end recording]

Iran To Supply 1 Million Tons of Crude Oil

BK0401030891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Iran has agreed to supply 1 million tons of crude to India on a deferred payment basis. According to sources in the oil industry, India has entered into a firm contract with Iran for the purpose. The shipment will start soon and the entire supply is expected to arrive during the first quarter of this year itself. It is considered a major success since the Gulf crisis last year. Sources said that earlier, Malaysia had offered half a million tons of crude on attractive terms and the first shipments have already arrived. The entire supply from Malaysia will be reaching very soon.

Iran

Ayatollah Yazdi Leads Friday Prayers 4 Jan

LD0401114791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] On the threshold of the blessed birthday anniversary of the grand lady of the world of Islam, Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra, God's peace be on her, and Women's Day, our Muslim compatriots held the rites of the politico-religious Friday prayers today throughout the country. The people of Tehran, meanwhile, today held that immortal Muhammadan tradition under the leadership of Ayatollah Yazdi at Tehran University and adjacent streets.

In these ceremonies, in which a number of Muslims from Kashmir were also present, in his second sermon the head of the Judicial Power referred to the approaching birthday anniversary of Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra, God's peace be on her, and enumerated her lofty characteristics and her fruitful life.

He said: The life style of Her Holiness Zahra, peace be on her, must be held as a unique example and model in all its dimensions by women and men.

Then referring to crimes which the United States has committed all over the world against the peoples of various countries, Ayatollah Yazdi explained that country's sustained support for the regime occupying Quds [Jerusalem] and its numerous crimes against the Muslims, especially the wronged and Muslim peoples of Palestine and Lebanon.

He said: The United States is the country which in its political history has committed a great deal of crimes against human beings and their interests throughout the world. It is the country which imposed the [Iran-Iraq] war to annihilate the Islamic government in Iran and thus has not hesitated to commit any kind of crime. Now she must know that whether she likes it or not, Islam's new life has dawned and is expanding throughout the world. And symptoms of world peoples' interest in Islam are such that such interest can even be clearly seen among the residents of various cities in the United States. Therefore, the United States must not entertain the notion that she can present projects [as heard] without entering Islam and Muslims in her calculations.

Referring to the ample support given by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the world Muslims to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the world Muslims to the Islamic revolution of the Muslim and victimized people of Palestine, the head of the Judicial Power stressed: The courageous campaign of the Muslim and struggling youth of Palestine against the forces of the regime occupying Quds, who are armed to the teeth, herald the victory of the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Palestine. And the migration of Zionists from all over the world to the occupied territories cannot dent the unwavering determination of the Muslim nation of Palestine to attain its rights. Indeed, the usurped territories of Palestine must be returned to their original owners, who are the Muslim people of Palestine.

In another part of his second sermon, Ayatollah Yazdi referred to the slaughter of Muslims in India and Kashmir and said: Lack of regard for the feelings of more than 1 billion Muslims throughout the world is a political mistake. The Government of India must know that if the massacre of Muslims in India and Kashmir is not stopped then it will bring about difficulties for the central Government of India.

Continuing the second Friday prayer sermon, the head of the Judicial Power offered his congratulations to world Christians, especially to our Christian compatriots, on the occasion of the blessed birthday anniversary of His Holiness the Christ, peace be on him, as well as the new Christian year. He then said: Campaign against tyranny and injustice is a principle shared by all the divine religions. The [Christian] church must not be turned into a tool in the hands of global arrogance, because the spirit of the teachings of His Holiness the Christ is one of campaign against injustice. To establish peace and remove injustice it is not enough to pray; rather, the world Christians must react against tyrants.

Velayati Returns, Comments on Pakistan Visit

NC0401074491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Mr. Velayati returned to Tehran last night after having gone to Islamabad to participate in the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan. The foreign minister spoke to our correspondent on the outcome of this meeting.

[Begin Velayati recording] During the visit to Pakistan, we had several meetings with the president, prime minister, and foreign minister of Pakistan during which we discussed bilateral relations and the tripartite meeting. We assess the trip as having been extremely positive. This is not only the Islamic Republic's assessment. Pakistan and Turkey too regarded this visit with special attention.

In view of the fact that we are at a special juncture and our region is facing a crisis which is becoming more and more serious each day, the regional countries must be in constant contact with each other and think of a way to confront the crisis that has befallen the region.

During my visit to Turkey, it was decided that the second tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers be held in Islamabad. The first one was held in Tehran and during the Tehran meeting it was decided to continue such meetings and exchanges of views.

We had two rounds of talks which finally led to a joint communique by the three countries. In this communique, the three countries have pointed out that they want a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis and emphasized that the Islamic countries should take more serious steps toward this goal. It was decided that Pakistan, as the host of the tripartite meeting, should send a letter to the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and to ask the secretary general on behalf of these three big Islamic countries to deal with this problem more seriously and to consider the convening of an extroardinary conference, either of the heads or of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries.

A regrettable point is that an ICO summit was to be held in Senegal in late January. But unfortunately this summit was postponed for reasons that are unknown to us. We only heard of the news of the postponement. Recently Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the esteemed president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, sent a letter to the ICO secretary general and asked for explanations on this and also stated that the Persian Gulf crisis is significant enough for the ICO to study it seriously.

This is the same policy that we pursued in Islamabad. Actually the request to the ICO secretary general came after the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran which was also accepted by Turkey and Pakistan. [end recording]

On cooperation among Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] pact, the foreign minister added: Part of the talks were on the ECO pact and some changes were made in the pact during the recent meeting of the three countries' foreign ministers.

On the future programs of the ECO members, Mr. Velayati said: The deputy foreign ministers as well as the planning officials of the member-countries are to hold separate meetings during the next couple of months. After this, the next meeting of the three countries' foreign ministers will be held early next year [21 March 1991-20 March 1992].

On the Pakistani Government's steps regarding the martyrdom of Sadeq Ganji, Mr. Velayati said: This issue was discussed during the meetings with the president, prime minister, and foreign minister of Pakistan. All three officials assured that they are following up seriously on this issue and that for this reason the case is being studied extraordinarily by a special court.

Commenting on his meeting with the heads of the Afghan mujahidin which took place in Pakistan yesterday, the foreign minister said: During this meeting the mujahidin's recent plan for elections in Afghanistan was discussed and we advised that they act more comprehensively on this issue.

Prospects of Tripartite Talks in Pakistan Viewed

LD0301132691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Foreign Minister Velayati, at the head of a political and economic delegation, set off for Pakistan. In this trip, beside taking part in the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], he is conducting talks with Pakistani officials.

In a meeting between Mr. Velayati and Pakistani President Gholam Ishaq Khan, bilateral and regional issues as well as current developments and the need for concerted efforts of the regional states for establishing security and stability in the region were discussed. At the same time, our foreign minister's proposal for an emergency meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization to resolve the Persian Gulf crisis was raised and debated.

The Pakistani trip is not only important within the framework of the Tehran-Islamabad relations, but also from the point of view of regional cooperation of the three statesa of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey.

According to prior arrangements in Islamabad, the three foreign ministers of the above states will be discussing the continuation and expansion of regional cooperation among them. ECO is, in reality, considering to be the successor to the Regional Cooperation for Development [RCD] group. This organization, which was set up in 1964 for the purpose of strengthening economic cooperation among Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey, failed to fulfill the existing expectations during its active years. The experts accept that the lack of success of the RCD was caused by the failure of member states to coordinate their economic interests within the framework of joint cooperation. However, in 1984, RCD was dissolved on Iran's proposal and other members' agreement. With the greater political and economic resolve of its members, it was replaced by ECO. [passage omitted]

ECO has had seven meetings so far. In line with recent agreements about raising the level of these meetings, the current session in Islamabad is the second at the foreign minister level. It is hoped that, considering the enthusiasm of member states and a combination of regional and international exigencies, the current ECO session will achieve its objectives.

In this regard, Mr. Velayati says that developments in world systems necessitate the formation of economic alliance on the basis of historical, cultural, and economic ties. This comes at a time when the three states of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey, which share common backgrounds, can be a model.

Khomeyni Warns Students About Factionalism

LD3112133190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni has told a meeting with a group of students at which he stressed the need to appreciate the presence of university staff and students in all arenas of the Islamic revolution: Our country's universities carry a heavy responsibility for safeguarding ideological and cultural assets, and they must provide numerous attractions for the young generation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni who was speaking at a session with the members of the General Council of the Islamic Union of Students of Shahid Behesti University on the country's cultural, social, and political issues, added: The unity between seminarians and students should not be restricted to one specific day, but efforts should be made toward the practical preservation of this connection between the seminary and the university.

Remarking that today Marxist and Western visions no longer hold any attraction for the revolutionary spirit of our young generation and those of the oppressed countries, he stressed: This vacuum should be filled in an appropriate manner, and the Islamic vision of Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—is the only suitable and complete vision capable of filling the ideological vacuum of the young and revolutionary generation throughout the world.

Reiterating that today the Islamic and revolutionary identity poses the greatest threat to Western interests, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni added: Today the arrogance aims to undermine this very Islamic and revolutionary identity of ours. Today the house of Sa'ud, by using the Muslims' wealth and assets, has portrayed an Islam that by no means defends the oppressed.

He also said: We all bear a responsibility toward the Islamic revolution. We should not give vent to disputes in the seminary, the university, and the political forums which support the two factions and have faith in both the imam and the system and the revolution. If these two groups were to split one day, facing each other, rest assured that the group that will benefit from this will not be one that belongs to either of these two trends who have faith in the revolution.

Analyzing the motives for the U.S. military expedition to the Persian Gulf, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: Iraq and Kuwait form parts of the U.S. motivation, but not all of it. They aim higher; they aim to destroy the concentrated energy built up by the Islamic revolution which could at any moment jeopardize their interests.

He added: In view of these conditions I earnestly beseech you to pursue factional issues only to the extent that will not, God forbid, harm the original revolutionary identity of the system.

Expounding on the limits to freedom, criticism, and the encounters of ideologies and viewpoints, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni described the lucidity of Islamic expression as the cause that deters one from self-reproach, flattery, and also from violating the integrity of and levelling aspersions against individuals. He stressed: We should value the lucidity of Islamic expression and strengthen the basis for the enocunter of ideologies and viewpoints.

He added: Education and studying should serve the Islamic system. Students, while paying attention to their studies, must also participate in various issues and should not for a moment neglect the defense of the system.

Referring to the recent remarks delivered by the president at the Friday prayers at the university, and the various view points expressed in that connection, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni remarked: The president, who is responsible for the executive affairs of the country, is striving to resolve the country's problems and social shortcomings, and his stances are aimed at resolving these problems. We all firmly believe that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is wholeheartedly devoted to the attainment of the country's total independence, and that his stances are aimed at resolving these problems. We all firmly believe that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is wholeheartedly devoted to the attainment of the country's total independence, and to that end he has also in mind the interests of the system. However, it is possible that those who are not deeply aware of the issues and the problems may not like such stances.

Strike by University Students Said Continuing

TA0301152091 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Reports from Tehran indicate that strikes and protests by university students are continuing and that classes at many colleges have been suspended because students are staying away from classes. The students' strike covers the universities of Tehran, Tabriz, Reza-'iyeh, Esfahan, and Mashhad.

The students, who at first were striking and demonstrating to protest the lack of welfare and educational services, are now making political demands. According to reports, the students are now demanding the release of detained students and the closing down of Islamic societies at the universities. The students say that the members of those societies are informers and spies for the regime.

West Azerbaijan Official on Antidrug Operation

NC0301145291 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 17 Dec 90 p 13

[Text] In an interview with an ETTELA'AT correspondent, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee of West Azerbaijan discussed the outcome of the Zafar-4 operations and said: An extensive international drug network was routed in the province thanks to the information gathered by the forces involved in the operation and to the investigations carried out by the personnel of the Islamic Revolution Committee who worked around the clock. Thirty-one veteran smugglers were arrested and dozens of light and heavy weapons as well as advanced military equipment were confiscated.

Mr. Mohammad Reza Jurkesh, commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee of West Azerbaijan (Urumiyeh), told our correspondent: We were informed some time ago that an extensive international drug-smuggling network was active in the province and that the members of the network were using various means to smuggle drugs into Turkey and European countries.

He added: The province's special drug enforcement units investigated all aspects of the case. They launched overt and covert operations in the province and were able to identify the smugglers.

According to Mr. Jurkesh, under the two-phased Zafar-4 operations, the revolution guards carried out a coordinated operation and trapped a number of smugglers. Interrogation of the arrested smugglers led to the subsequent arrests of the head of the network and two others who played prominent roles in it in Tehran, Karaj, and Varamin. A total of 31 members of the network, including all the active drug smugglers, were arrested.

The commander of the West Azerbaijan Islamic Revolution Committee pointed out: During interrogation, the smugglers confessed that they had formed the network in Urumiyeh in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] and that they smuggled four-fifths of a tonne of morphine in six batches, each weighing between 430 and 1,200 kg, from the east of the country first into Urumiyeh and then into Turkey.

Moreover, the head of the group, whose name is 'Abd ol-'Aziz, cooperated with 'Abd ol-Nabi Shahbakhsh, an insurgent leader in Sistan va Baluchestan Province.

He added: The head of this network collected advanced weapons and ammunition in the west and northwest of the country. These weapons and ammuntion were hidden in secret compartments of trucks and taken to the desert in the east, where they were exchanged for drugs.

According to 'Abd ol-'Aziz' confession, he delivered 500 light and heavy weapons and a large quantity of advanced military equipment, as well as 200,000 deutsche marks and dollars [as published] and a large quantity of gold and jewellery, to Shahbakhsh in exchange for the four-fifths of a tonne of morphine.

Investigations revealed that the smugglers hid the drugs, arms, and ammunition in a deserted orchard in Balu village, 30 km from Urumiyeh, on the Urumiyeh-Salmas road. Fifty-five weapons, seven radio sets, and two advanced infra-red binoculars, one of which is designed for nighttime driving in the desert, were discovered in two locations in the orchard and in an underground vault.

The military equipment that was found included two long-range radios, a portable radio, a PRC [as published] radio, 11 Kalashnikovs, 11 rifles, four Kalashnikov magazines, 13 Cornif [as published] guns, four 40-mm grenade launchers, three RPG-7's, seven rifle telescopes, 16 Kalashnikov loaders, 2,000 bullets for rifles, 800 Cornif bullets, and two hunting rifles.

In addition, 15 light and heavy vehicles were confiscated from members of the network and three trucks with secret compartments for smuggling drugs and weapons were seized.

Investigations revealed that the smugglers procured the arms from various groups, particularly the defunct Democratic Party. This shows the close link that exists between these groups and international drug smugglers.

Referring to the deployment of capable forces on the country's eastern borders and the signing of protocols with neighboring countries in the east on confronting smugglers and insurgents, Mr. Jurkesh said: These elements have enabled the insurgents and international smugglers to procure military materiel with greater ease, and the officials should attach more value to such agreements. [sentence as published]

Mr. Jurkesh then spoke about the Zafar-4 operations in Urumiyeh and said: With these exercises, the equipment and manpower of this institution were mobilized and many areas in our cities and villages were purged of smugglers and addicts. During this exercise the forces of the Islamic Revolution Committee were able to arrest 685 addicts and 18 major drug dealers and traffickers and to confiscate 38 kg of drugs.

In conclusion, Mr. Jurkesh thanked the Islamic Revolution Committee forces of the province for their round the clock efforts. He also thanked the people for their cooperation and said: We expect residents to help this institution carry out the duties it has been assigned and to convey any information they may have about any criminal behavior to the bases of the Islamic Revolution Committee.

Students Demonstrate Outside British Embassy

LD0301112991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Students and members of the Committee for Support of Students under British Injustice as well as members of the family of Mehrdad Kowkabi, the Iranian student who is imprisoned in England, staged a sit-in this morning in front of the British Embassy in Tehran to protest his illegal confinement. They demanded his release.

Mehrdad Kowkabi, a graduate student of the doctorate course in Polymers at Manchester University in England, lived for five years in England with his family. After the announcement of the historic edict of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, concerning the execution of Salman Rushdie, the apostate author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses", the British police moved to arrest and intern him charging him with making efforts against the publication of the book "The Satanic Verses."

According to the Central News Unit and IRNA, Ms. Zahra Esmailipur, wife of Mehrdad Kowkabi, who is taking part in the sit-in in front of the British Embassy together with her children and members of her family as well as members of her husband's family, declared that the reason for the sit-in was the illegal internment of Kowkabi by the British Government. She said they will continue their sit-in until Mehrdad Kowkabi's final release.

She said that following the declaration of the edict of his eminence the imam, God's peace be on him, on Salman Rushdie, British Muslims began to hold demonstrations in Manchester. Then the British police, on the basis of the unfounded assumption that the Iranian students were the cause of that gathering, arrested Kowkabi and several of his friends. She added that, 13 months after the illegal arrest of her husband and despite the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the British Government has so far taken no action to release him.

Referring to the British Government's claims of devotion to freedom and support for human rights, she said: If the British Government is faithful to its claims then it must release him as soon as possible so that he may return to his home country.

Paper on Change in British Stance Over Rushdie

NC0301214091 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Dec 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "London's New Policy and Rushdie's Fate"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Some people may believe that, in light of Rushdie's recent declaration of penitence, the Rushdie issue is in the process of being resolved, but this is not true. Actually, the Rushdie issue is on the way to being resolved not because of Rushdie's expression of repentance but because the British Government has left the issue to Rushdie himself. It would be better if we explained this point a little more clearly:

Everything indicates that it is possible that after assessing the policies of the Thatcher government, the new London government has reached the conclusion that a solitary and traitorous element is not worth keeping a problem between the British and the Islamic world alive forever. It can continue to utilize his services as a mercenary and even support him and reward him appropriately for his servility. Today, however, London has important issues before it which demand its attention. Among these is the forging of new relations with the Islamic world and the efforts to erase the effects of the abominable policies of the Thatcher government on the Islamic world in general and the Islamic Republic of Iran in particular. [passage omitted]

If this is true, and if the British have realized the futility of their manysided efforts and are now seeking to make amends for their past errors with this gesture, then this should be interpreted as a positive step by the London government and welcomed.

It should have been the policy of the British Government right from the outset that it would not interfere in issues concerning the Islamic world and would not instigate the blaspheming of Muslim sanctities by a member of the Royal Academy of English Literature. By recognizing the seriousness of the matter, the anger it has aroused in the Islamic world, and the Islamic world's determination to secure the implementation of the decree of Islam, it would have been better if the British Government had stepped aside and not hindered the implementation of the divine decree.

In fact, what the British Government has done today is what it should have been done all along; it should have left Rushdie to his fate without interfering. Had this been done, the British Government's relations with the

Islamic world would not have become linked with the fate of Rushdie. [passage omitted]

It would be even more advantageous if the futile security measures that the British Government has taken to prevent the implementation of the divine decree against Rushdie were to be lifted. By doing this, the British Government, which is facing a major financial crisis, could economize on the expenses entailed by these useless measures and could also save itself from the recriminations of the Islamic world for its continued and absolute support for elements who profane Islamic sanctities.

It would be better for Salman Rushdie if he recognized the facts and prepared himself for the implementation of the divine decree. The fact is that for the past two years, his life has been a hell; he has not been able to enjoy life at all because of his major and shameless act of blasphemy.

If we are to deem Rushdie's acknowledgement of his errors and his return to Islam as a good sign, then it would be an even better sign if he prepared himself for the implementation of the divine decree. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Visits Ilam, Comments on Gulf

NC0301075991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, who has gone to Ilam in order to establish direct contacts with the resistant and faithful people of that province, spoke to IRNA and Central News Unit correspondents last night.

On the motive behind choosing this province as the first area for establishing direct contacts, he said: The people of Ilam are very dear people. During the imposed war, they passed an extremely honorable test. They suffered many calamities during the enemy bombings and missile attacks. But they displayed great patience and staunchness in front of these calamities and stayed in their cities. Each time the enemy's attacks intensified, they sought refuge in the surrounding mountains and they never placed any burden on the shoulders of the government. I admire these people and I deemed it necessary to meet with them.

Commenting on the morale of the Ilam people, the leader of the Islamic Revolution stated: In my past visits to Ilam, I always saw that the Ilam people had excellent morale. These people are extremely faithful. Thank God, our people throughout the country have very high morale. But in view of the calamities that the Ilam people have been through, I truly think that their morale is excellent.

Further in the interview, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasized the need to accelerate the reconstruction process in Ilam's damaged areas and stated: The government has plans to develop this province. Some of these plans are major and national plans such as the construction of an airport and highways. With the implementation of these plans, the province will not be isolated anymore.

Also, there are many other plans which are on the provincial level. There are many deprived villages. But fortunately the government has plans in mind in its [five-year] program. I especially emphasize the need to accelerate the Ilam airport plan because of its significance and necessity. There are many plans in the government's program and everyone should help in implementing them. Of course, the Reconstruction Jihad can play a big role in the development of villages. This area is a tribal area and the tribal people are proud people. But they are in need and steps should be taken in order to overcome their needs. I am very hopeful on the future of this province.

The people should stand next to the government and carry out their duties. Fortunately the government is a very good government and the president is an extremely outstanding personality. The Cabinet members are truly working and they like to work for the people and especially for the deprived areas. But the people too should cooperate with the government in implementing these plans.

In conclusion and in answer to a question put to him by the correspondents on the Persian Gulf crisis, the duties of the Iranian nation, and especially the residents of border areas in these sensitive conditions, the leader of the Islamic Revolution said: Our advice, as always, is alertness. The people should be awake and alert and not give up their revolutionary efforts. They should consider their presence on the scene of the revolution important and they should preserve their unity. Under the aegis of faith in God and by relying on Islam and on the Koran, our nation has trod difficult paths. In the future if our people preserve these characteristics, they will certainly not lose but will gain from any incident that takes place.

Commentary Views Soviet Objectives in Gulf

NC0301180091 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 18 Dec 90 p 8

[Unattributed commentary: "The Soviet Union's Profit-Seeking Role in the Persian Gulf Crisis"]

[Excerpts] The Persian Gulf crisis has provided the Soviet Union with an opportunity to hit the right nail on the head in view of its mounting domestic and foreign problems. [passage omitted]

Despite Moscow's success in transforming yesterday's enemies into today's friends and in laying the foundations for peaceful coexistence, with the collapse of the strategy of international proletarianism on the world stage, the role of the Soviets has lost much of its lustre and their presence in spheres where they had traditionally been prominent has ended.

Meanwhile, Moscow has turned outward in an effort to solve its increasing problems. It is trying to play a larger role in regional conflicts and thus to find a way to improve its domestic situation and to gain political credibility in international relations.

By playing an active role in German unification, the settlement of the Cambodian and Afghanistan issues and conflicts in Africa, and the Persian Gulf crisis, Moscow is try to pave the way for an improvement of its domestic situation.

The Kremlin recognizes that the Persian Gulf crisis is like a deep swamp into which the Americans have been drawn—a swamp with apparently no way out—but it is trying to seize the opportunities this crisis has provided and play an effective role. Of course, it should be said that the Soviet Union fears any disorders in the Middle East that could affect the stability of its southern regions and it wants calm to be reestablished in the Persian Gulf as soon as possible so that its own national security will be preserved. [passage omitted]

At any rate, after Iraq occupied Kuwait, the Russians immediately rolled up their sleeves up and entered the scene.

However, in view of the fact that the cause of the current problem in the region is Iraq—this outstanding and longstanding friend of the Russians in the Arab world which has maintained extensive commercial relations with Moscow since the 1972 agreement on bilateral cooperation and which received most of its weapons from the Soviet Union—the Kremlin joined the ranks of Baghdad's opponents cautiously. This is because the banner of the new era in international relations and world understanding which was hoisted by Moscow would not allow the Russians to support Saddam Husayn or even to remain indifferent to him and also because it was quite clear to Soviet officials that America and the other anti-Iraqi forces, especially the regional Arab countries, would fill any void. Soviet officials also believed that this stand would benefit their country in other ways as well.

IZVESTIYA, the organ of the Soviet Government, wrote in relation with this: After Iraq's attack on Kuwait, Moscow can resort to its coordination with Washington to make up for the loss of its friendship with Iraq and make strategic use of this.

What is the Soviets' strategic objective in this crisis, especially in view of their awareness of the significance of their role at this juncture and of the price of the expectations of the United States and its Arab friends in the region, which want to use the Kremlin's influence with Baghdad to force Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait? Moscow has tried, since the outbreak of the crisis and within the framework of its leading role in this conflict, to advance its regional and world interests.

On this basis, the Soviets, who were practically without any worthwhile place in the world's political scene once the Iron Curtain fell and the shaky pillar of communism disintegrated, have tried through their active presence in the Persian Gulf crisis to direct the process to serve their goals in a way that will allow them to regain a leading place in the world and to reestablish the past balance that existed with the United States.

Within this context and in view of its longstanding desire for access to the Persian Gulf waters and the establishment of a foothold in regional countries, the Kremlin has always wanted to improve its standing among these nations and it has been successful in this so far, with the exception of the Persian Gulf crisis. Within the context of this policy, the Soviets were, after half a century, finally able to establish relations with their major Arab adversary, Saudi Arabia, and have even received the first gift of $4 billion.

Bahrain was also among the last of the six members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council to welcome Soviet diplomatic relations. Despite the fact that Washington was very sensitive toward Moscow's obstructionist strategy in the region for the past 25 years, it now sees that the Persian Gulf crisis has not only opened a place in the region for its old rival but that this rival has also now established good relations with the oil-producing countries in the region. This would not have happened, or at least it would not have happened as quickly, if the Persian Gulf crisis had not broken out. In view of the White House's objectives for long-term hegemony over the Persian Gulf so that it can gain access to the region's oil resources—which is tantamount to gaining access to a lever to pressure its international rivals—the Kremlin's intention is to take advantage of its geographical proximity to the region and gradually to lessen America's role in the region at the same time that it shows the significance of its own oil resources for the West and Japan.

The Soviet Union intends to use this God-given opportunity to gain more concessions from America, which now has no alternative but to comply with Moscow.

One of the its goals is to subjugate Washington into dismantling strategic weapons. Apparently discussions on this during a recent meeting between the Soviet and American foreign ministers in America did not produce any results, and a continuation of talks was postponed until the Moscow summit. At the same time, throughout the four months of the Persian Gulf crisis, America has extended a much needed hand to Moscow, both to secure the approval of UN Security Council Resolution 678 authorizing the use of force to make Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and to create the anti-Iraqi alliance. Moscow wants something in return for this. Moscow is said to have suffered about $10 billion in losses because of the economic sanctions against Iraq, a situation which has in turn led to an economic stagnation so intense that even the Soviet people's economic needs are not being met, and it is asking for immediate aid from the West for its sick economy and for Western investment. This request has apparently been accepted by America and other Western countries and even by the Soviet Union's new friends such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Of course, we should not forget that Soviet policy on the Persian Gulf crisis should in no way be taken to mean that the Kremlin wants to give up such a valuable friend as Iraq and to allow the White House to remove the Iraqi Ba'th Party by resorting to force.

Soviet abandonment of Iraq would inevitably result in a change in the nature of the Iraqi regime and, in turn, to Iraq's exit from the Soviet orbit—something which would ultimately strengthen the U.S. foothold in the region. Moreover, a solution of the crisis through the use of force after the end of the cold war would discredit the Soviet Union's policy which supports the nonuse of force and also supports collective security and detente through peaceful means.

At the same time, Moscow's efforts to bring European countries such as France into line with its theory of creating a front against war and in favor of a peaceful solution to the crisis shed light on yet another of its objectives, which is nothing else but creating a rift between Europe and America. Therefore Gorbachev, while falling in line with international policies against Iraq and echoing Bush on the need for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, wants the crisis to end through peaceful means and he does not want waves. Under such conditions, the Soviet Union will be able to establish a place for itself in the Middle East, make itself effective element on the world political stage, and solve its economic problems; in this way, it will emerge as the biggest winner from the Persian Gulf crisis.

Editorials View Impact of Gulf Crisis on OPEC

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL

NC2912135690 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Persian Gulf Crisis—What Choice"]

[Text] Although it is very unlikely for oil to be the sole reason behind the Persian Gulf crisis, oil experts and political observers agree that the future of oil is among the most important targets of the present crisis.

Iraq's Aug 2 invasion of Kuwait raised a new scenario about the trend of oil developments. The constant fluctuation in the price of oil, its psychological effects and the insecurity dominating the oil markets, as well as predictions about the future political and military formation of the world and especially that of the Persian Gulf, have thrown light on the political aspects of oil.

Oil, as a political commodity and not a mere economic one, fluctuates, affected by political developments in the short run. The effect of oil on the economic structure is more vivid in the long run than in the short run.

The short-term effects of the Persian Gulf crisis on the political developments in the region are quite obvious, but based on the existing political and economic blocs, only the future can show the long term impacts of oil and energy.

Thirty years have passed since the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was established. Over the past two months OPEC, despite its internal ups and downs, has managed to keep its grip on the oil markets by maintaining its output ceiling and quota system.

It has also portrayed itself as the most successful organization safeguarding the interests of its developing member states. It seems that the undermining of OPEC or a change in its nature has been included in the scenario of the Persian Gulf crisis. This scenario calls for an end to OPEC's domination over the oil markets and for the growth of substitute or parallel organizations throughout the world. To change the Persian Gulf's status quo, there are three options conceivable:

Firstly a peaceful settlement of the crisis through granting concessions, secondly the outbreak of a military conflict, and finally a no-war-no-peace situation in the region.

In the first case, the crisis in the region would spill over to OPEC because a practical return to the previously-decreed quotas would not be easy. Despite an increase in the quotas of OPEC member states especially Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, Kuwait and Iraq would join the other oil exporting countries when the Persian Gulf crisis is over, and therefore there would be violations by some members in cutting their outputs to their previous quotas.

An added problem is that the instability of the international oil markets has prompted both importing and exporting countries to intensify stockpiling of oil. This explains the rising demands for oil. But after the crisis is over, concerns about violation of OPEC-assigned quotas by its members (particularly by Kuwait and Iraq to make up for their damages) and the existing amount of oil stockpiled by importing and exporting countries would cause a sharp decrease in oil price to below 15 dollars per barrel.

In the event of a military conflict in the region and a subsequent hike in the price of oil, the shipment of oil will face many problems, heavy losses will be inflicted on oil resources, the Pesian Gulf's key role in the future of energy will be seriously hurt and other regions would be strengthened to play such a role.

Even if the region's political balance tips up, oil reserves can remain as a means for confrontation with the United Europe and the country of rising sun (Japan). To cope with both events, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries can determine the base price and quotas of its members both in case of war or peace by convening extraordinary sessions.

If the Persian Gulf crisis ends peacefully, OPEC's supervisory committee can maintain the base price by keeping a close eye on the sales of each and every member state of the organization. It should never be forgotten that the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran lie in maintaining and strengthening OPEC.

As for the no-war-no-peace situation, foreign forces will remain in the region and a second Israel will be born in the Muslim world during the third oil shock which have so far hit the world. In that case, it would be easy to control OPEC and the Persian Gulf's oil reserves, to check the Islamic Revolution and to find a pressure lever against Europe.

To justify the third option one can say a military offensive will entail heavy damage to life especially when strongly opposed by the public opinion. A peaceful solution to the crisis, giving of concessions, withdrawal of troops and a lack of trust in the superpowers coupled with insecurity in the region and the Persian Gulf sheikhs' losing of trust in the U.S. for its support would all mean the loss of pressure lever against Europe and Israeli threats. In the third case, a second Camp David will emerge in international level.

The West is likely to opt for the third choice to prolong its direct presence in the region.

RESALAT Commentary

NC0201091191 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Dec 90 p 11

[Hoseyn Jalili commentary: "The Persian Gulf Crisis and OPEC's Future"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A few months after the Persian Gulf crisis, dangerous fluctuations and the lack of full coordination among the OPEC members are gradually surfacing; the current crisis may ultimately cause a crisis in OPEC. The Persian Gulf crisis could possibly end in three different ways:

The first is an end to the crisis through peaceful means and the granting of concessions. The second is through a military confrontation. And the third is that a situation of neither war nor peace will prevail in the region.

If the first alternative materializes, the regional crisis will be drawn into OPEC because a practical return to former production ceilings will not be easy. [passage omitted] Once the crisis ends, concerns about returning to former production ceilings, violations of this ceiling by OPEC members (especially by Kuwait and Iraq which will want to make up for their losses), and the large quantities of oil reserves both in the oil-exporting and the oil-importing countries will lead to a drop in oil prices to less than $15 a barrel. Moreover, OPEC will be split into factions and its strength will gradually diminish. Possibly one of the objectives behind the Persian Gulf crisis is exactly this. If a military confrontation takes place, prices will suddenly increase. Oil transportation prices will rise and great losses will be inflicted on oil resources. This will, in turn, strongly decrease the key role played by the Persian Gulf as far as determining the fate of energy is concerned and increase the role played by other parts of the world. Naturally, with a change in the political balance the region can continue to use its oil as a tool to confront a united Europe and the Land of the Rising Sun. In order to confront these two, OPEC should hold emergency sessions to determine prices and production ceilings during both war and peace. In this case, OPEC's supervision committee must strongly and seriously control the oil sales of each one of the OPEC members. If a peaceful solution is achieved, this committee should continue to supervise prices. We should never forget that the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran lie in the continuation and strengthening of OPEC.

In a situation of neither war nor peace, foreign forces will remain in the region. A second Israel will be born from the third oil shock in the world of Islam which will facilitate the establishment of control over OPEC and over the Persian Gulf oil resources. In addition to harnessing the Islamic Revolution, it will turn into a lever for pressure in the hands of Europe. [passage omitted]

Apparently the West tends toward the third solution, which will allow them to maintain their direct presence in the region for a long time. Nevertheless, it is still too soon to predict which one of the three alternatives will prevail.

Commentary Stresses Need for Peaceful Solution

NC2912131390 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 22 Dec 90 pp 5, 14

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran Reactivates Diplomacy of Peace"]

[Excerpts] Iran does not want another war in the region. After eight years of a bloody conflict with the neighboring country the Islamic Republic is using all the available good offices to avert a military confronation between Iraq and the U.S.-led multinational force in the Persian Gulf. In recent days the government of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani made it known that it would increase its efforts to heip search a peaceful solution to the Kuwaiti crisis. [passage omitted]

Iran like so many other countries still feels that a solution short of war is possible. The people and government of this country like their counterparts in the neighboring states cannot afford to witness the breaking out of fresh hostilities at a time when the world is moving towards reconciliation. [passage omitted]

There is no logical explanation as to why the Iraq-Kuwait dispute should remain an exception to this newly found atmosphere of reason and wisdom. There is a much more stronger dimension to the claim that President Saddam Husayn should solve his differences with Kuwait in a refined manner. And that is the religious and cultural reality of the two nations. Iraqis and Kuwaitis are Muslims, Arabs and neighbors. The two nations' border disputes may be as old as history but this does not mean that occupation and subsquent annexation are the only alternatives. In today's world inter-state disputes are no more solved like this.

Iran and Iraq are war-experienced nations and know better than others in the region how bloody and destructive wars can be. As has been written and discussed in the past few months, the Iraq-U.S. fighting will be different. If war comes very little will remain of what is acknowledged as a strong and powerful Iraq. Though the foreign intervention forces will also have to pay a heavy price at that but the principal losers will be the Muslim people of Iraq.

The presence of a formidable U.S. army to reverse Saddam's August 2 invasion is nevertheless worthy of the strongest condemnation. Iranian statesman have repeatedly stressed that the unwanted foreign military buildup is more a liability than an asset for the honor, stability and prosperity of littoral masses. To say the least it is being propogated that Muslims are weak and unable to solve differences among themselves without outside intervention. Those who underscore this argument intentionally close their eyes and mind to the fact that America's hostile presence here has indeed come in the framework of its imperial and agressive designs and is only partially related to upholding international law. The dispatch of nearly 300,000 U.S. troops along with tons of military hardware has been made possible with Saudi and Kuwaiti petrodollars stashed away in western banks by the subservient al-Sabah and Al Sa'ud clans. Thus it is at the expense of Muslims again that Americans and their allies are engaged in adventurism in the strategic waterway. The cost of the "Desert Shield" operations are being paid by Muslim Arabs which at the same time is contributing to their image of weakness and helplessness. [passage omitted]

Naturally the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms are more concerned about the security and stability of their regimes and seem prepared to compromise across the board to achieve their aims. Four and a half months are not a long time in politics and it is unfortunate that before Mr. Saddam Husayn went for the grabs in Kuwait the other tiny emirates believed Islamic Iran was a threat to their pro-western rule. Time proved them wrong and the same countries are making another mistake by talking about security structures at this juncture. No doubt Iran has to be invovled in any new arrangement to safeguard peace and security and prevent a recurrence of the August 2 tragedy. But leaving Iraq out of the process will not help the least in meeting the desired objectives. It is in everybody's interest to realize this underlying factor and move accordingly. The Islamic Republic must consider this point in all reality especially when it is concerned about another war breaking out near its doorsteps.

Editorial Calls for Regional Solution to Crisis

NC2912120390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Persian Gulf Crisis Begs Regional Solution"]

[Text] The only solution to the Persian Gulf crisis is the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. We feel very uneasy that the U.S. steps in to push Iraq aside, with the Iraqi people suffering. The shuttles being made by our foreign minister nowadays is an effort to avoid the outbreak of a war in the region. We want to prevent war and are strongly opposed to Iraq being battered by the U.S. Nevertheless, the responsibility lies with the Iraqi regime." [No opening quotation mark as published]

These remarks were made by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a question-answer session with Shahid Beheshti University students on Tuesday. They reflect the official stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the current crisis in the Persian Gulf. Although this stance has been reiterated by Iranian authorities over and again, with the approach of the January 15 deadline set by the UN Security Council for Iraq to quit Kuwait, the regional countries have yet to launch a collective effort to save the Persian Gulf from the fire of war, whose dimensions are unpredictable.

It is regrettable that the initiatives launched by the regional countries to settle the crisis have produced no positive result. Last week's shuttle to the region by the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, for instance, ended with no concrete results. The failure of Chadli should in fact be regarded as a defeat of the idea that the Persian Gulf crisis will be solved by the Arabs themselves.

The Arab League too showed from the very beginning that it has lacked the ability to resolve the issue. The reluctance of the Saudis to welcome Chadli to the region has shown that Riyadh has maybe received the necessary backing and trust from Washington to take a tough stance vis-a-vis the crisis.

Although it may be said the Saudis were not very wrong in their claim that Algeria was not strictly neutral in its position on the crisis, its rejection of mediation efforts by Middle East states only adds the complication of foreign interference.

It can be further faulted that the UN secretary general too has not been very active in finding a soluton to the Persian Gulf crisis. It is only the Security Council which has taken an active role in this regard.

Commentary Favors Collective Regional Security

NC2912092290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0600 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Political commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] The complicated political situation in the region created by the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the large-scale presence of military forces from the United States and other countries in the Persian Gulf requires that the countries of the region formulate their policies with greater sensitivity. The approval of Security Council Resolution 678—the 11th resolution to be issued by the Security Council since Iraq's aggression against Kuwait—is tantamount to the legalization of the use of force by the big powers.

Of course, the Security Council's 45-day deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait does not just mean that the multinational forces will resort to a military operation once the deadline has expired. The very fact that the Security Council set such a deadline shows the sensitivity of political conditions in the region and means that other military operations cannot be ruled out in the future.

This complicated situation must therefore be regarded very seriously by all governments, which should try to focus their strategies on solving the crisis.

From the Islamic Republic's point of view, all efforts by regional governments should be aimed at paving the way for a solution of the crisis and at avoiding anything that could exacerbate it. Within this context, any step to be taken must be based on principles and pivots that will contribute to the long-term peace and stability of this sensitive area.

On the basis of this, all coordination should be based on the following pivots:

The Iraqi forces must leave Kuwait unconditionally, and the territorial integrity and independence of that country must be guaranteed.

The West's multinational forces must also leave the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia because the very presence of foreign forces in the region upsets the political atmosphere and prevents the materialization of peaceful programs. Therefore, the withdrawal of the West's military forces from the region is essential if peace is to be established and the consequences of the aggression overcome.

Another important point is that the region's political geography must be preserved. Any change in the map of the region will not only destroy the conditions required to resolve the crisis but will also pave the way for future crises. Therefore, from the point of view of Islamic Iran, the preservation of the region's political geography, current borders, and the territorial integrity and the independence of the Persian Gulf and Middle East states is a basic principle.

Among the other pivots on which efforts to solve the Persian Gulf crisis should be based is the establishment of collective unity without the presence or intervention of the powerful countries. The sensitive situation in the Persian Gulf demands that regional security be achieved through cooperation and joint efforts by all regional countries and that no type of force be used by other countries in relation with this. If this principle is not observed and the big powers secure a long-term presence in the region, the conditions necessary to achieve permanent stability in the region will be destroyed. In view of the strategic importance of the region, such a development will also be to the detriment of international peace and security.

Therefore, collective security in a Persian Gulf free from the presence of foreign forces is crucial to the establishment of peace. One of the negative repercussions of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait was that it opened the door to the massive presence of the West's multinational forces in the region.

At any rate, the principles mentioned above are among the major pivots of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy as far as regional events and developments are concerned. These principles are based on the sincere views of Islamic Iran and reflect the realities of regional developments.

To sum up, it can be said that the logical solution to the Persian Gulf crisis is parallel withdrawals by the Iraqi forces and the multinational forces led by the United States. Furthermore, favorable political conditions for preserving the region's political map must also be created, and the territorial integrity and the political independence of the regional countries must be safeguarded. Another important point is the preservation of collective security in the Persian Gulf with the participation of all regional countries.

At any rate, these are the principles that govern Islamic Iran's political strategy and they are derived from the realities of the regional situation. Coordination among all regional countries to achieve these objectives can play a very significant and decisive role.

Commentary Views U.S. Objectives in Gulf Crisis

NC3012155690 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
16 Dec 90 p 24

[Political commentary: "The Persian Gulf Crisis—Talks or War?"]

[Text] Although the last UN Security Council resolution, followed by America's announcement that it is ready for talks with Iraq, have moved the Persian Gulf crisis into a new phase, the question asked more than ever is: Regardless of American ploys, if these talks do take place, what will their nature be? These developments are happening when the Iraqis have clearly realized that their last effort to create a rift among America's Western allies was completely futile. They see that the approval of the recent Security Council resolution has dashed their last hope for a respectable emergence from the current crisis and that the Security Council's deadline has created an extremely favorable atmosphere for America to be able not only to insist on Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait but, above all, to propound the most major issue: how to include the topic of ending the Iraqi regime's political life in the talks.

The political developments in the crisis have shown from the beginning that the White House leaders have taken one step at a time to close all the doors on any kind of compromise with Iraq, and that by resorting to phased policies they have driven the crisis into a corner where the final outcome—whether through war or through political means—will not only be Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. It will also be the end of the Iraqi regime's political presence in the region because of America and the West's maneuvers to disarm it militarily.

The probability that Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait can be the only way to solve the problem while simultaneously leaving a loophole for Iraq to emerge from the current deadlock is losing its meaning more and more each day. Although the Baghdad leaders apparently have expressed their willingness to withdraw from Kuwait, the forecast is not very favorable. This is because America is holding most of the trump cards, and it does not seem very probable that talks—if they take place—will lead to a compromise allowing the Iraqi regime to return from this perilous situation to the status as it stood before it occupied Kuwait.

This is the conclusion we reach when we look at the following three objectives America pursues along with the solution to the current crisis:

1. America will want to strengthen its indisputable domination over the region's vital resources in a way that both the interests of its allies will be ensured and the weapon of oil will continue to remain in America's hands as the most important determining factor in world economic relations and an element which will strengthen the role of this superpower in the world's political balance. In order to achieve this, the existence of a regime like Iraq's with a superior military capability is not favorable to American interests.

2. America is preparing to transfer the main role in the region's political and security structure to the Egypt-Syria-Saudi Arabia axis in order to stabilize peace and calm. This will ensure the interests of the Zionist regime and will neutralize the increasing growth of pro-Islamic and fundamentalist movements in the occupied territories and gradually move these struggles from their ideological-Islamic axis to a political-national-Arabic axis favored by the West. In America's view, all of these can be ensured if the potential threat of the Iraqi regime's military and political capability is removed.

3. The idea of weakening the French-Soviet axis in Europe and convincing the Soviet Union to cooperate further with America and to support American policies both regionally and internationally by granting suitable political and economic concessions to the Soviet Union throughout developments in the current crisis has been growing. This idea has increased the possibility that two current world powers—despite their propaganda rows—are approaching more and more a principled and basic understanding that includes the interests of both sides. Moreover, America's failure to achieve a rapprochement between the Islamic Republic's political stands and the views and plans of the West for a solution to the current crisis can be another motive for American efforts to isolate Iran in that solution. This is at a time when the Iraqis have lost their role as the most important lever for American pressure on Iran.

Therefore, on the whole, this point should be considered: Even though the possiblity that America and Iraq will reach a type of compromise cannot be completely ruled out, the reality that America is looking for a way to emerge victoriously from the crisis and to achieve its objectives of continued domination over the area's vital resources should also be taken seriously. In the opinion of the current White House leaders, the continuation of the Iraqi regime's military and political presence in the region—even if it withdraws from Kuwait unconditionally—will be tantamount to America's defeat in achieving its objectives in the region. The U.S. leaders have clearly realized that the Iraqi regime will not surrender with their hands tied in case of a political settlement and that if these talks also fail, then America's only recourse will be to enter the scene. After this, its efforts to emerge from the scene—despite the high hopes of Western military analysts—will only further prove its helplessness.

Paper on Need To Ease Pressures on 'Deprived'

NC2812124690 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Dec 90 pp 1,11

[Ahmad Tavakkoli commentary: "What Are We Defending? Prices and the Livelihood of the Deprived"]

[Text] At his meeting with officials last week, the leader of the Islamic revolution once again pointed to the principled and unalterable policy of the system in defending the deprived and said: "Islam's view is that the blessings of a society belong to all members of that society, and those who are living a life of deprivation should demand their rights. This is a basic issue as far as the implementation of our policies is concerned and if careful steps are taken toward this objective, we will have satisfied God Almighty."

This important and basic principle is one of the lofty objectives of the Islamic Republic. Since the outset of the revolution, the government's efforts have been aimed at overcoming poverty and deprivation. Many successes have been scored in this field but because of the war, foreign pressures, and some economic policies, certain obstacles arose.

The implementation of the Five-Year Plan is a path of no return which will lead to the adoption of suitable social, cultural, and other policies and thus gradually enable all people to lead a dignified life. Officials should, however, also heed what the esteemed vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult has brought to their attention. In other words, they should determine what things will be included in the careful steps that should be taken to overcome poverty.

The Five-Year Plan dictates that the government adopt a policy to balance prices. In other words, the steps that should be taken and the regulations that should be introduced should be able to help determine prices on the basis of supply and demand, not by circulars and other directives. If this happens, then production and supply will increase and jobs will be created. As a result, incomes will rise and the standard of living will improve. Among the duties that the government has been assigned is to offer its products and services at reasonable prices that will not have determinental effects on the government's income. In this way, production can be increased and a budget deficit can be avoided.

In implementing these policies, paying careful attention to the following points can ease the pressures on the deprived strata:

1. As previously explained, wages should be increased to a reasonable level and thus be regulated to be on par with the market. The government has taken the first step in this direction with its bill to the Majles presented in Khordad [month beginning 22 May] this year. Although the government's proposal to increase wages by the end of the [Iranian] year [ending 20 March 1991] was recently approved by the Majles, nevertheless the esteemed Majles should also try to show greater speed in the deliberations that have been under way for six months now on another bill presented by the government.

2. No deadline has been set for the policy on balancing prices and nothing has been said about the time frame, the items, and the intervals at which this should this be done. Of course, attention has been paid to this issue since the new government first began its work. The division of imports into three groups and the introduction of three types of exchange rates—government, preferential, and competitive—were for this very purpose. More care needs to be taken, however, to prevent the lack of coordination so that incidents such as the prices of soft drinks over the past few months or the taxi rates in Tehran are not repeated.

3. The sale of government products and services at prices which result in neither profit nor loss for the the government is definitely something that should be supported, on the condition that the organization which is offering the services or goods is healthy and has no excess expenditures. The National Steel Organization, for example, had accumulated 10 billion tumans in losses but was offering steel at a low price. This lack of balance was increasing losses. At the same time, the product—which was being distributed by the government at an unreasonable price—usually ended up on the black market. Now, with the new policies, the price of steel has increased to about 138 rials per kg which is the true cost of the finished product. Of course, if the Ministry of Mines and Metals sells steel at this price, it will only be able to meet its current expenditures. The depreciation of its assets will not allow it to repay its debts. At the same time, the foreign exchange [dollars] that it needs should be offered to it at 70 rials.

A noteworthy point is that the National Steel Organization is sick. According to official figures, 40,000 employees—63 percent of its entire staff—are redundant. If correct organization is introduced, will the price of steel still be 138 rials? Of course not. A decrease in manpower, and thus in wages and benefits, will lead to decreased costs for construction, transportation, fuel, and individual expenditures (such as insurance premiums, etc.). With improved management, production will be increased at a lower cost. Of course, in this case debts can be repaid or prices can become more realistic.

The question is: In implementing the policy of adjusting prices, should the burden of high prices which stems from organizational deficiencies and bureaucracy be placed on the people's shoulders? By simultaneously implementing part of the approved programs and policies and improving organizational efficiency, government establishments can overcome these shortcomings and work to improve the country's economy—something that will be to the benefit of the destitute and that will ease the pressures on the deprived.

Paper Supports Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Budget Bill

NC2812142590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Dec 90 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "The Budget Bill and Cultural-Social Problems"]

[Text] The president presented the 8,000 billion-rial budget bill for the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] to the Majles yesterday. During the open session of the Majles, the president made some comments about the country's political, social, and economic conditions and pointed out that the country is in transition from a "war economy" to an economy that is predicted in the Five-Year Plan. He added that because of its sensitive and complicated issues, this is a most difficult juncture: The economic basis should be consolidated first and then the country placed on the right course and on the basis of programming.

The president pointed to the significance of programming, to the strength of management, and to the system's capabilities in solving problems and in forwarding set objectives. Recalling that the government has been able to tap these capabilities to get through difficult phases during these past years, he said that we can be more hopeful today and look to the future with more enthusiasm.

In giving the budget bill to the Majles, it seems that the government has completed its task of compiling a budget that conforms to economic conditions and to the Five-Year Plan. It is now up to the Majles to devote special care and sensitivity in revising and approving the details of the budget.

What the budget bill says is largely clear. The Majles deputies should now take the objectives of the revolution and of the system into consideration and pay more attention to its cultural and social aspects and decide generously and with deep understanding when further investment in these two areas is needed.

When he presented the budget to the Majies, the president pointed out that some ministries and organizations are demanding more funds so that they can accelerate their programs and objectives. This is a positive point and it should be supported. It is a logical and timely expectation. The government and the Majles should understand that certain financial allocations are necessary to facilitate the implementation of the cultural goals envisaged in the Five-Year Plan.

We are now in the reconstruction phase with its serious and vital economic needs. But the issue is not merely that though culture and economy are two different things, they have a "mutual impact" in many cases. What is important is that the system's executive policy conform to the objectives and the criteria with which the system's values are measured and that efforts should focus on fulfilling the system's cultural objectives. To achieve these objectives, it is naturally necessary to examine matters from a cultural aspect too.

Healthy economic development can solve many problems and end many of the cultural and social ills. One major point in this budget is that it leans toward efforts to improve the deprived and underdeveloped areas. If this is followed up and if the Majles makes a generous decision on this, it can gradually halt the "emigration" from the major agricultural production centers—that is, from the villages—and pave the way for the emigrants to return. In this way the large problem of urban and rural population disintegration will be gradually solved.

One of the main reasons people emigrate to the cities and to consumer centers is for more facilities. By allocating the right amount of credit and with correct programming aimed at providing the necessary facilities to the rural and lesser developed areas, the grounds for "stabilizing the population" will be paved and emigration will be halted to a large extent.

The government and the executive system fulfilled their duty when they gave the budget to the Majles. Now it is up to the Majles deputies to adopt a correct, precise, and calculated approach and to strive for a better future with the system and the country's problems solved.

Paper Urges Fight Against 'Economic Terrorists'

*NC2812141890 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
13 Dec 90 p 2*

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "The Link Between Security and Economy"]

[Text] The link between "security" and "the economy" is indisputable, as is the link between "law" and "security." This is why since ancient times, political philosophers have always considered the creation of security to be one of the major tasks of governments.

Over time, the phenomenon of insecurity has become ever more complex. Highway robbers and sword-wielding pirates are no longer the only elements who foment insecurity in society. Today this is also done by those who obstruct the economy and who harm the people's livelihood. Such people are not being properly dealt with and the fight against them remains confined to words.

Frankly speaking, why should a system which speaks of supporting the deprived and which has revived Islam show any mercy for those who threaten the very existence of the revolution and pure Islam? Frankly speaking, why is there such a great discrepancy between verdicts issued by two different judges in two different courts? The commutation of the death sentence issued against Engineer 'Ali Musavi Qomi to two years imprisonment is not something that can be accepted easily. At any rate, the court of law and justice knows why it acted as it did. Let us not forget, however, that such decisive and revolutionary approaches will at the very least allow the public opinion of a nation that has sacrificed everything it had for years to draw the conclusion that apparently there is nothing that can uproot the elements that are causing insecurity in society.

Yes, if we seek economic growth to achieve a balance, we should first create economic security within the nation and show the people with our deeds that society is moving in a healthy direction in which there are no signs of economic obstructionists. The "law" is an effective tool to create such conditions, and sentences against "elements who create economic insecurity" only help this goal. Even though at the outset of the govenment's activities, the public expected that along with the efforts to improve the economic situation, comprehensive judicial and legal steps would also be taken, steps that would prevent the emergence of elements like Musavi-Qomi, nevertheless.... [sentence as published]

Thus, it is now necessary to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the judiciary branch—and of the other two branches as well—and, while identifying their weak and strong points, to determine policies that can be used to combat economic terrorists. These policies should become effective tools to fulfill the system's economic objectives so that the elements who create economic insecurity in society do not grow bolder. This can only be achieved with firm determination and by taking into consideration the directives of our late imam and the guardian of the deprived, as well as the repeated remarks by the esteemed leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, on the need for practical support for the genuine assets of the revolution, or, in other word,s for the deprived. Once we understand the true meaning of economic security, we can and should start moving in this direction.

Bill on Legal Representation Approved

LD3012132190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Excerpt] On the basis of the measure approved in today's open Majles session, it is incumbent on all public prosecutor's offices and courts of justice to accept a lawyer in all the stages of the trial, inspection, and investigation. Our correspondent reports from today's open Majles session:

[Correspondent] The draft bill on the appointment of a lawyer by the parties involved in litigation, which had double-urgency priority, was approved by the deputies in this morning's open Majles session with Mr. Karrubi presiding and in the presence of the members of the Council of Guardians.

The draft bill's single article states: The parties involved in litigation have a right to appoint a lawyer, and all public prosecutor's offices and courts of justice, be they civil or penal, revolution [tribunals or prosecutor's offices], the judicial organization of the Armed Forces, special clerical [courts or prosecutor's offices] and so on are duty bound to accept a lawyer in all the stages of trial, inspection, and investigation.

Violations of the bill will, on the first occasion, bring about a grade-three disciplinary penalty, and, on the second occasion, result in expulsion from the legal profession. If a court deprives the accused of the right to appoint a lawyer and if it attempts to issue a verdict without the presence of a lawyer, that verdict will have no legal validity. In addition, in accordance with the bill, in his position as the defense, the lawyer will benefit from the respect and the facilities due to those engaged in the legal profession. [passage omitted]

President on Document Registration Problems

LD3112142290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Excerpt] All administrators are duty bound to serve the people and to make speed of action, accuracy, and respect for the trust placed in them by the people the principles of their performance. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered these remarks this morning in a meeting with Mr. Zavare'i, the head of the Organization for the Registration of the Country's Landed Property and Documents [ORCLAD], and a number of directors-general and heads of Registration Offices from throughout the country.

The president referred to the fact that, fortunately, a general movement is under way in all organizations and offices which can have positive effects on the entire society. He stressed the need to solve people's problems in connection with the registration of documents and to reform matters relating to problems created in the past. He added: One of the important and necessary tasks of the ORCLPD is to resolve the people:s outstanding registration problems because a failure to deal with these problems will make some people raise cases of irregularities and of unreliable written material; something which can have negative consequences for the society and ultimately cause insecurity, and nothing is worse in a society than insecurity and the possibility that the people might be anxious about the future of their possessions and landed property.

The president added: Of course, all administrators are duty bound to serve the people and to make speed of action, accuracy, and respect for the trust placed in them by the people the principles of their performance, especially in offices which directly deal with the people's frights, because the slightest negligence in the performance of duties can deprive many people of their rights or unfairly give things to some others.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the need for those who commit administrative offenses to be decisively confronted. He said: If, God forbid, an administrator commits an offense in an office it will result in the loss of the people's confidence in all government offices, and then you will certainly lose your most precious posession, which is precisely the people's confidence and trust in their administrative servants . [passage omitted]

Broadcasting Chief Plans To Expand TV Network

LD0101112591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Summary] The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision Organization, yesterday in the course of an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent in Shiraz, announced that with the completion of the first phase of the country's five-year development plan, 90 percent of the country—and by the time of the completion of the second phase, the whole of the country—will be able to receive the provincial and national programs of both television channels. To expand the external network, three short wave stations will be set up in the provinces of Sistan-va-Baluchestan, Khorasan, and Khuzestan, which will be made operational by the end of the five-year development plan.

RESALAT Report on 4 Dec 90 Majles Session

PM0301091691 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Dec 90 pp 5,11

[Excerpts]

Report From Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles:

Legal and parliamentary section—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, following comments by deputies from Ardel, Tafresh, Izeh and Khorramshahr as pre-agenda speakers, the Majles went into session.

Below is the text of the pre-agenda speeches and the bills passed by the Majles.

'Ali Yusef-pur, deputy for the people of Ardel and Farsan:

The Iranian people must be more aware than before because there are hidden as well as obvious hands at work causing various crises in the country.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Yusef-pur, deputy for the people of Ardel and Farsan. In his speech he commented on the revolt staged by the Palestinian people and said: The heroic people of Palestine have for some time followed the path of struggle against the occupying Israel and the criminal United States; and the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people, inspired by the Islamic revolution in Iran and the ides of our departed Imam, is forging ahead. The criminal United States should know that it is still the number one enemy of the Muslim and oppressed peoples of the world. It is busy every day carrying out some sort of plot against the Islamic revolution.

The speaker then commented on political activity by university students and the existence of several schools of thought in universities, and said: I believe that students must be active and present on various political scenes. If that is not so, then there must be a fault in Islam and being a Muslim. The other point is that our dear students should follow the fine tradition and set the theological centers as their role models. During the many centuries since the birth of theological centers, the expression of various Shiite, Sunni and even atheistic ideas has been permitted, and this is the secret of the strength and progress of the theological centers. One of the respected members of the Qom theological center says that at one gathering the late imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—said: "The gentlemen can pay from the imam's fund to those who come to the theological center to teach Erani's [communist leader in Iran in the 1950's] philosophy." Why is it, then, that now there are those involved with student affairs who have in the past few years used only a certain faction, putting the voice and microphones of the universities solely into their hands? Under no circumstances are they willing to accept even the smallest comment from the opposing faction. They prevent in every possible way speeches by those who have spent their whole lives in the service of the revoltuion, who have been chosen by the late imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—and the great leader of the Islamic revoltuion. I must tell you, dear brothers and sisters, that if you are true to your own positions, you must welcome an exchange of differeing views with other people. When the views of the communist and godless Erani caused a blossoming of ideas in the theological centers and caused the truth about Islam to come forth, why do you display so much sensitivity? You have always shouted about democracy and freedom. What sort of freedom and democracy is this, that you are not even willing to listen to the views of those who have slightly different opinions from your own? Do you not think that this is the case in the West, where they wish democracy only for themselves, and dictatorship for everyone else and the Third World? This will not happen, God willing.

Dear brothers and sisters, remember the years 1980 and 1981. Study those days and find out how the enemy's propaganda, which was so widespread, made many of our young people who believed in the revolution think badly of martyr Beheshti and other friends of the Imam. They woke up only when, as the Imam predicted, Beheshti was no longer there. At that time they accused Beheshti of being pro-capitalist and of having contacts with the United States. Now these same accusations are being leveled at the friends of the imam and martyr Beheshti. The university and students must remain strong in the path of the revolution, and they must remain revolutionary. But this is impossible unless an atmosphere of freedom prevails in the universities.

He then suggested: They must invite students with various ideas and thoughts from different factions. Not only different factions must find their way into the universities, but I also believe that it will be all right if we invite scientists from different Islamic, and even non-Islamic, factions to take part in various conferences. Then the universality of Islam and the just position of the true islam of the Prophet—peace be unto him and his family—will become clearer.

Mr. Yusef-pur continued his remarks by talking about those who make a lot of noise about various issues. He said: In recent years we have seen how some people, by using the most holy slogans, have tried to achieve their goals in any way possible—and they continue their efforts. They are the people who see their political lives only in terms of creating tension and crises in the country. They rely on the evil method of making a lot of noise, following every quiet period in the country, making new excuses. By creating all sorts of propaganda and tension they try to gain more power in the holy Islamic Republic. This small but vocal group sees the hard-working government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani as one that will destroy their plans. The dear people of Iran, who have tolerated the difficulties and hardships of the last 11 years with dignity and strength, must be more aware than before because there are hidden and obvious hands at work causing various crises in the country. In their propaganda they see themselves as the only ones struggling against the United States and the West. They accuse government officials who have spent their whole lives combating the United States and the West of being willing to establish ties with the West. But in practice, at the invitation of Italian and Japanese companies, they and their families spend between 10 days and a month in Japan or Italy and become guests of the Westerners. In order to travel to the United States and Europe, they accept the indignity of having to visit an American embassy to apply for a visa. When they come back from these lucrative trips, like movie or theater actors, they shed tears for the oppressed who do not have enough money to buy a dowry for their daughters. Or they talk about schools which exist only in their imagination and say that they are full of mice. The dear and aware people of Iran know that throughout history power-hungry people and those who love the material world have always achieved their diabolical goals by shouting slogans designed to fool the masses.

He continued: On the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Moddares it is important to note that the late Reza Khan, who was a servant of foreign powers, used widespread propaganda to say that Moddares was pro-British and identified himself as Iran's guide.

Our dear people must identify with more awareness these people and movements who hinder the programs set out by the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Though these stone-throwers may have infiltrated some of the ministries, I myself believe that the work of the government must be carefully supervised to eliminate the government's problem, partly through constuctive criticism. I myself, as a small servant of this holy regime, if these gentlemen continue their plots, I will reveal their names, along with the relevant documents, from this same rostrum. Mr. Yusuef-pur, in other section of his speech, said: Recently someone spoke in his pre-agenda speech about the Abol-Fazl of the revolution, who is innocent. I think it is worth mentioning a few points to the dear people of Iran.

To have a revolutionary background and to have served the revolution is necessary for everyone, but this is not enough. At all times to actively obey the velayat-e faqih of the time is the one prerequisite for people. It was the same in the past, since the greatest quality of Abol-Fazl—peace be unto him and his family—was the fact that he obeyed his leader of the time. You all recall that the past deputy leader, who spent his whole life fighting the shah, in and out of jail and in exile, and who had a major role to play in the victory of the revolution, destroyed his entire past in a single night by not obeying his leader, Faqih, his teacher and his friend. At this time it is appropriate for me to quote from a letter from our departed imam to Majles deputies and ministers: "With a bleeding heart, I am putting aside the fruit of my life for the good of the regime and Islam." It is unnecessary to state that the defense of Islam and the regime is no joking matter, and in the event of any deviation, anyone in any position will be immediately brough to the people's attention.

You say that the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—put the good of Islam and the safeguarding of the regime above everything else. Along the same path, I see it as my duty to reveal to the dear people some of the actions of this so-called "Abol-Fazl."

This person in 1988, as minister of interior, uttered the worst insults against the president of the time. Even Radio Israel had not at that time insulted its enemies in the same manner. Three days after this same person—after the great leader of the Islamic revolution had shouted in pain about four of five spokesman of Radio Israel—he, this so-called "Abol-Fazl," defended them boldly. By saying that the sad sunset of the revolution had arrived, he challenged all the officials, causing pain to those who love this regime. By making certain comments in his BAYAN magazine, he insulted everyting holy to Islam.

In this way he was even worse that Bazaragan's MIZAN newspaper and Bani Sadr's ENGHELAB-E ESLAMI. In reply to this gentleman, one must say that now it is the dawn of the great Khomeyni's era and that the next century will witness the realization of our departed Imam's ideals and thoughts. In the near future the Muslim peoples of the world will take the great Imam Khomeyni and the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i as their role models to destroy heresy throughout the world. Now is the sunset of the era of cruel and power-hungry people both outside and inside the country and all those who have dreamed of controlling these people. They should know that the sun of the revolution and the person hand-reared by the great Khomeyni has stood to face all the bullying powers, bravely and steadfast, with the help of the great people of Iran.

The dear Hezbollah which is present on all scenes has made a promise to its God to defend Islam, the imam's line, and the great leadership of the revolution with the last drop of its blood and until its last breath. Those who have been castigated by the great leader of the revolution—if they do not express remorse before God, the great leader of the revolution, and the dear people of Iran—will without a doubt experience perpetual misery and indignity. We ask God that this will not happen, that they will show remorse.

The deputy for the people of Farsan and Ardel concluded his speech by thanking and expressing his gratitude to Messrs. Habibi, Mo'in, and Zanjani for the initial preparations for the great university of Chahar-Mahal and Bakhtiyari province. He thanked Mr. Rafiqdust for his special attention and the allocation of 20 billion rials to the construction of buildings for schools in deprived areas. He thanked engineer Ne'mat-Zadeh for the special attention given to the expansion of industry in the province of Chahar-Mahal and Bakhtiyari. He thanked the governor general for employing devoted Hezbollah members, especially natives; and also Mr. Nuri, the minister of interior, for the creation of a governorate in the town of Ardel.

Gholam Reza Heydari, deputy for the people of Tafresh and Ashtiyan

Mr. Gholam Reza Heydari from the constituency of Tafresh and Ashtiyan was the second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles.

He said: The agreement to hold direct talks between the United States and Iraq could be another confirmation of this analysis that the plan to invade Kuwait by Iraq was undertaken with coordination between the United

States, Europe, and the Soviet Union, owing to the strategic importance of the oil reserves in the Persian Gulf.

More than 60 percent of the world's oil reserves are in this region, 10 percent of which belong to Iran. In any case, war seems very unlikely. But what is very important for us is our position on the world scene and our foreign policy, which must safeguard and defend our goals and national interests. As the great leader said, our foreign policy is dictated by the three guidelines of honor, wisdom, and what is best for the country. It is obvious that the two principles of honor and wisdom cannot be separated from what can be guaranteed within the recognition of what is good. The principle of choosing what is best is very complex and needs a good deal of thought.

Gholam Reza Heydari

Honor and wisdom are two inseparable principles in our foreign policy which are guaranteed within the recognition of what is good.

He added: The IMF experts have analyzed Iran's economic situation and have written: "Soon after the revolution, the advent of war put the government in a position where it had no choice but to make the defense of the realm its priority and to place the country's economy at the service of the war. Because of this need, manpower and financial resources were diverted from production and peace-time investments and were geared to the war effort. The war lasted a long time but it seems nonetheless that Iran's economy has managed to tolerate these blows in a worthy manner. During most of the war it even achieved a high level of growth. Despite severe pressures, Iranian officials managed to keep the economic policies of the country under their own control, in a praiseworthy manner, without relying on foreign loans. This has now placed the economy in a better position to tackle the problems of reconstruction and expansion after the war." So it is not really fair to ignore the efforts, far-sighted planning, and good management of Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi and his government, when making speeches on anniversaries, and so forth.

Mr. Heydari added: There is much to say when it comes to economic issues but the remarks made by Mr. Hashemi, the president during the sermons of the last two friday prayers, are very important. If these remarks are handled correctly and actively by the media, especially the Voice and Vision, in roundtable discussions aand so forth, they could be regarded as one of the revolution's best paths. In truth, does economics have a place in our collective beliefs and in general in Islamic society? Why is it that Islamic societies mostly live in poverty, despite having most of the natural resources? Do you not think one of the main reasons for this is because it has been instilled in us to value poverty, that the less we have in this world the more we will have in the next? Does this thought create encouragement and incentive for work, effort, research, culture, production and better utilization of what God has given us? Do other kinds of inventiveness and initiatives come into effect? The great martyr Mottahari put it beautifully when he said that those who think that the issues of life are separate, that everything has its own boundary and limit, that a part of human life belongs to a specific object, are deluded. They perhaps even deny that anyone can talk about an Islamic economy because they think that Islam and the economy are two separate issues. Islam occupies one domain and economics another. It is the same for politics, judgment, and even behavior, which all occupy separate domains from Islam. Some have even gone further and said that all life is perhaps one entity and religion another, that religion should not become involved with secular matters. The first mistake these people made is to think of life's issues as separate. This is wrong. Life is a single entity, and all its facets are linked. God and evil in every aspect of life affect other aspects. It is impossible for a society to have bad culture, politics, judgment, behavior, education, or economics and then have good religion, or vice versa.

He stressed: One of the worst things about Islamic societies is the acceptance of poverty in society. This kind of thinking easily accepts the control of aggressors in the world. How beautifully our departed imam always stresed the need to eliminate poverty as one of the basic principles of the revolution.

The speaker continued: If we look at the past with an analytical eye perhaps we will find out that Islamic societies throughout history, in defense of various positions, have not paid enough attention to other necessary points. Perhaps it was even justified defense. At one stage in history we were engaged in a discussion to separate religion from politics at a time when the world was making rapid scientific discoveries. At another time when the nations of the First World were busy sorting our other economic issues and organizing economic systems, we were still talking about matching religion with science. If anyone talked about economics, he would be accused of various things. Now unfortunately we see that one of the major faults of Islamic Iran is the absence of available economic system. Until the country's economic plan has been drawn up how can we provide a program for industry secured to consumer needs, which are one of the necessities after the war? If this is not done as quickly as possible, we will simply be going round in circles.

May God grant a proper fate to those who prevented the implementation of martyr Mottahari's economic ideas and a real exchange of ideas on this issue.

Many of the issues and subjects that cause uproar in our society because of bad management are really not the problems of the country or society. Look at the uproar that was made during the elections for the Assembly of Experts—was that really because of problems in our society? Was it anything other than bad management on the part of the respected Council of Guardians? Does this bad management in the managing and running of the country not have effects? One of the worst ways to run a country is to depend too much on the element of emotions which, God forbid, will lead to stupidity and which ruins the running of the country's affairs from within.

He added: Economic problems should be solved with economic solutions. One of the most important solutions is to hope for a day when economic accountancy replaces administrative accountancy. The lack of such thinking throughout society has in reality made the various bodies in the country unworkable and uneconomical. There are those industries which should lift a load from the shoulders of the people and the government, but that is not the case. Instead they are a heavy burden on the shoulders of the government, costing it a lot of money. One can boldly say that there are few products in the country whose finished price is realistically calculated accurately. But the one point that we must always keep in mind when talking about economics in terms or our planning, calculations, and actions, is justice. Just as martyr Mottahari said: "Justice is the cause not the effect. It is not to say whatever religion says in just, but rather whatever is just, that is what religion says." This is the meaning of the value of justice for religion.

Mr Heydari stressed: One of the most urgent needs is quick and exact identification of the nation's goals so that in accordance with these, all unity, brotherhood, and position-taking can find a meaning.

In conclusion, he conveyed his greetings to Dr. Mahmud Hesabi for becoming a candidate for man of the year 1990. He asked the president, the minister of culture and higher education, and the minister for the plan and budget organization to make an effort to bring the university town of Tafresh to a level where it can be utilized.

Yunes Mohammadi, Deputy for the People of Khorramshahr: If Enough Facilities Are Not Provided For War Refugees in Their Own Cities, They Will Leave Those Cities.

[Passage omitted] In another section of his speech he [Yunes Mohammadi] commented on the problems faced by war-ravaged towns and said:

I am speaking at a time when the government of the great brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is busy putting together the budget bill for 1991. I think it proper to make a few comments in this regard.

The brothers know that six border provices were under direct fire from the enemy while the rest of the provices were under indirect attack. All facilities in these provinces have either been destroyed in the war or else they have been used toward the war effort. Other governments, while they were severely preoccupied with the war, paid some attention to the welfare of other cities and villages which is one source of pride for the Islamic Republic. But in those war-ravaged provinces, not only was there no growth, but they have gone back in time to the dark ages.

The war caused irreparable damage to those provinces and it is necessary for special attention to be paid to this lack of growth. There must also be more attention paid to rebuilding. Of course I want to thank the respected Majles deputies for their attention to the war-ravaged areas. Especially this year an appropriate budget has been approved breathing life into the cities and villages damaged in the war. But the respected government must pay attention to the fact that this year, because of the new conditions that have come about, there are other cities and villages that are now ready for rebuilding. The people of Naft-shahr, Sumar, Khosravi and Musiyan, the villages west of Khorramshahr, and the region of Shalamcheh, the villages of Bozorg, Jazireh, and Arvand-Kenar are impatiently waiting for the return of rebuilding. There must be a proper budget allocated this year so that these dear ones can return to their cities. At the moment the return of the people is following a good pace but rebuilding is lagging far behind the return of the population. For example in Khorramshahr there are 60,000 people now who have returned but their problems and shortages are so severe that they have all lost hope. Why should the people have to wait for months for building materials? Why do people have to suffer for want of a load of sand and cement? Dear brothers, Messrs. Mirzadeh and Tola'i, your day-and-night efforts are worthy of praise and are appreciated. But you must pay more attention to some officials and some people working under you because they will destroy all your efforts and all your pains with one negative move.

He continued by addressing Mr. Tola'i, the governor general of Khuzestan province and said: The reconstruction of war-damaged cities does not just have a physical dimension, but rather there is a psychological dimension as well. This is especially true when it comes to cities like Khorramshahr which are regarded with special sanctity, which should not be forgotten.

The deputy for the town of Khorramshahr addressed Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and said: Why is it that other ministers have no responsibility when it comes to the rebuilding of war-damaged towns? Why have they forgotten these towns and expect everything from the reconstruction squad? For example why is it that the minister of health and welfare is indifferent to war-ravaged areas? Right now there is no hospital in Khorramshahr, no radiology, and no medical facilities. Sickness and some skin diseases are affecting the people of Khorramshahr and it causes pain to look into the eyes of some of the children there. Why is it that so far there has been no attention paid to health issues there? All these refugees that have returned need doctors and health care. If these facilities are not provided, everyone will soon leave Khorramshahr.

He also mentioned the problems of students and teachers and spoke of the shortages of facilities and asked that these issues be looked into.

The speaker talked about the budget allocated for the Foundation of Refugees and said: Last year the budget allocated to the Foundation for the Refugees of the Imposed War was 53 billion rials. This year 3 billion rials has been taken out of this in the budget proposed by the government which means a great catastrophe for the poor refugees. Unfortunately, the respected officials of the foundation made life difficult for the refugees with one directive after another and cut off most facilities and aid. These dear people who have lost their homes and have been driven away for the cause of Islam should really not suffer so much unkindness. These pressures cause them great pain and in some cities this has caused severe clashes with officials of the Foundation of Refugees.

In his comments he stressed: Most of the people who have returned to their own cities need strong support in order to be able to rebuild their farms and their workplaces. The officials of the Foundation of Refugees must ensure that all this pressure is not put on the war refugees. Because of Islam and because of the revolution, these people have been homeless for 10 years. Why is their allowance cut—even for those who cannot work any more? You should not increase their poverty.

Mr. Yunes Mohammadi continued his speech by asking Ayatollah Yazdi to support the prosecutor of Khorramshahr and Abadan. in conclusion he asked the three heads of the three powers to visit the war-ravaged cities.

Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi, Deputy for the People of Izeh

The third pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi from the constituency of Izeh.

He said: Today Islamic Iran, relying on the efforts and sacrifices made in the past, must be presented to the world as a successful experiment and there must be some basic move toward guiding the Islamic movement. In this connection and in order to be successful in a correct way, close attention must be paid to the elimination of poverty, backwardness, and oppression. This is a basic issue and in the light of this view there must be continued efforts to create a healthy society that is progressive in terms of science, industry, and technology. Today we are a long way from reaching that situation. In the last 10 years, because of the issues of the imposed war and the running of the war, we have not taken any steps in connection with fundamental issues. We have not designed any dams, we have not started any great factories, and on the other hand, because of the wrong policies, we have pushed production backward.

He added: To improve the situation we may at first think that there should be cheap goods brought on the market, that the government should think of such tings. But this policy will most definitely fail because by following this path we will certainly not be able to do better than the Soviet Union or China —and we have all seen the results there.

He continued: In order to expand in Iran we must do a few things to ensure that we can become a practical role model in the world, a successful experiment so as to speed up the Islamic movements.
1. We must increase production with all our might.
2. We must hand over affairs to the people more than in the past.
3. The government must in the best possible way, abandoning all types of bureaucracy, run the country and guide the programs and in short, keeping in mind previous experience, it should utilize the people in the best possible way.

Of course it is possible that this program will have some pressure at the beginning but it will have bright things in store for the future of the nation. One thing that I advise all politicians and officials of this holy country is that they should support the government in all areas, that they should in no way be after a pain-killer or temporary solution. We should help Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani with all our might and we should make an effort to mobilize the people to this end and we should strengthen this kind of thinking throughout society.

Mr. Musavi added: The dear Majles deputies realize that this is not an issue of wanting creature comforts, but rather it is a matter of saving Islam and the country.

He continued: I thank and show my gratitude for the nonstop and indefatigable efforts of the respected president, longstanding friend of the Imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—and his extraordinary character which the people have recognized well. His actions make the people more optimistic about the future each day. I wish to thank him in relation to the implementation of useful programs especially with regard to the issues mentioned below:

1. In connection with heavy activity in the foreign policy and military spheres in the world and in the region. Especially in confronting occupying Israel, attention must be paid to the importance of the issue of Palestine and to helping those innocent people.
2. There must be an effort to organize the administrative situation in the country, especially keeping in mind his latest directives with regard to creating a balance of pay between those who work and those who have retired and relying on and giving importance to skilled workers, which in itself would create basic changes in the administration situation in the country.
3. In connection with basic economic activity in the country, especially with regard to strengthening the monetary situation and guiding the cash flow.
4. Basic work to start production.

He concluded by thanking the government, especially the minister of interior for giving a part of the Melk gardens to the governor's office.

The Bills Passed

The report by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent from yesterday's open session of the Majles indicates that the legal plan to disband the commission in charge of questions and handing over its duties and responsibilities to appropriate commissions, was the first subject on the agenda. Following speeches by deputies in favor and against the proposal, the plan was put to the vote but was rejected.

The open session of the Majles continued yesterday with a question by Mr Abutaleb Habibi, deputy for the people of Q'aemshahr and Savadkub addressed to the minister of economy and finance which was discussed.

Comments by the Questioner

Mr. Habibi read out his question addressed to the minister of finance and economy: "Improper hiring and firing and violation of recruitment policies with regard to key positions in the banking system, especially the Mellat Bank and others and organizations linked to the ministry of finance and economy."

After reading the title of the question, he said: At the time when Dr. Nurbakhsh took over the affairs of the ministry of finance and economy, it did not take long for us to see that there were movements in the ministry of finance and econonmy and in the banking system and related organizations which caused worry among all those who supported the revolution and those who loved the regime.

He added: The issue that exists in the ministry of finance and economy is primarily getting rid of religious elements which I do not feel is right for Mr Nurbakhsh who supports the regime. I am hoping that he does not know about this and perhaps that he would be able to do something about this issue and the situation that has come about and make up for it.

There has been an issue at the Mellat Bank in Mazandaran province whose management was in the hands of a sacrificer and soldier [disabled person]. The gentlemen came and removed him and put another man in charge of the Mellat Bank in Mazandaran Province. The Hezbollah forces, the respected governor general of Mazandaran Province, and all officials of the province expressed concern at this hiring and firing and there are many reasons for this. One of the reasons is that the man in charge now does not pay all that much attention to Islamic principles. He added: Even inside the Mellat Bank there have been issues which caused all officials and especially the governor general to have correspondence with Mr Nurbakhsh. A delegation from there went to see the minister of interior and this delegation reached the conclusion that this hiring and firing was not a wise thing to do and they have asked that it be dealt with.

Explanation by Dr. Nurbakhsh

Dr. Nurbakhsh, minister of finance and economy, made some comments in reply:

In connection with hiring and firing in the ministry, he said: In general there are 10 posts of deputy in the ministry. We have replaced three people and I have given the deputy ministerial position to a person with whom I can work.

He continued by explaining the organizational chart of the supreme council of banks and said: The person who was responsible for the Mellat Bank in Mazandaran was a person who came to the bank in 1977 with a high school diploma and was a simple clerk, carrying out his duties as a grade one clerk. Suddenly in 1987, because he could not become the manager of the bank in the province, he became deputy responsible for the province. The man who is now responsible for the province has a university degree in economics and has been employed at the bank since 1970. He has also been manager of two branches, deputy in charge of the province, manager of the Tonekabon area, manager of the central provincial region, manager of Bakhtaran Province (after the success of the revolution and during the time of the previous management), manager of two provinces—Bakhtaran and Eastern Azerbayejan and even the previous manager of Mellat Bank had given him three recommendations. This is why the person who made that decision decided according to these facts that he could be the manager of the province.

Then the deputy from Q'aemshahr made some additonal remarks and Dr Nurbakhsh again answered the questions raised.

Following the explanations by Dr. Nurbakhsh, the deputy from Q'aemshahr was not satisfied with the replies received so the question went to the commission in charge of questions.

During this session there was discussion on correcting Item 78 of the internal charter of the Majles and it was announced that the plan to correct a part of the law dealing with the establishment of the Aviation Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran had been received by the Majles.

*Tehran, Moscow To Be Linked by Train in 1991

91AS0305H London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] Tehran and Moscow will be linked by rail in early 1991, and the passenger trains will carry passengers destined for Moscow from Tehran, Tabriz, Jolfa, Baku, Rostov, and Kharkov to the Soviet capital.

According to a report by the Persian section of Radio Moscow, in the first phase of building the railroad link between Moscow and Tehran, a number of Soviet passenger cars will be leased to the Islamic Republic railroads for 10 years. These cars will belong to the Iranian railroads in 10 years. Nikolay Konarev, the director of the division of the permanent Soviet commission for economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Islamic Republic, who spoke on a special Moscow radio program, announced that the economic cooperation programs between the two countries have been devised up to the year 2000, and it is hoped that trade relations between Moscow and Tehran will significantly increase in the next 10 years. Konarev said: "Soon the transport of cargo to Iran will begin through the Soviet-Astara rail station." He added: "The Soviet Union will soon deliver 200 special cars for carrying grains to the Islamic Republic in exchange for marketable foreign currency."

*Ministry Suggests Increase in Health Charges

91AS0305G London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 4

[Interview with the Islamic Republic's deputy minister of health and treatment; date, place not given]

[Text] Despite the increase in the medical service fees by the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Health and Treatment and the escalation of the people's discontent over the high cost of such services, the deputy minister for treatment of this ministry announced that the present treatment charges are unjust and asked the government to take steps to increase such charges. Dr. Nowbakht Haqiqi told reporters: "In setting the medical charges, supervision to ensure good practices and revision of the charges are among the duties of the technical council of the Ministry of Health and Treatment. Recently, in connection with the existing charges, which concern last year and do not conform to the realities of the day, a review has been made, and ultimately new rates have been decided upon for medical services." He added: "Under the present conditions, we are unable to supervise well, because the present charges do not conform to the realities."

In another part of his interview, justifying the increase in treatment service charges, the Islamic Republic's deputy minister of health and treatment said: "The costs of treatment services are high. Some of these services depend on equipment that is purchased with foreign currency. Wages have increased and the rates for such services as water, electricity, rent, and goodwill money [fees given for taking over the goodwill or advantage in custom of a shop] have also increased. Even the government institutions and agencies which have many doctors' offices and treatment centers have high and unfair rental fees. Under such circumstances, our supervisory apparatus becomes weak, and when we deal with them, they say something that we see is right."

*Bushehr Nuclear Plant Construction To Resume

91AS0305F London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] Following the announcement of the agreement of the industrial officials of Germany to continue to work toward the competition of the nuclear power plant in the Islamic Republic, Reza Amrollahi, the vice president of the Islamic Republic and head of the Atomic Energy Agency, announced that the Bushehr nuclear power plant will be completed in the shortest possible time. This same official, who had traveled to Bushehr early last week, said: "In carrying out the recent decision of the national atomic energy council, the Bushehr nuclear plant will be completed as soon as possible. In addition, another power plant is underway." Without revealing the location of the other nuclear power plant, the head of the Atomic Energy Agency added: "Operations to build another nuclear power plant have begun, and we hope we will be able to make use of its electricity in the next few years to eliminate the existing shortages."

The above-mentioned official referred to the recent statements of the secretary general of the international nuclear energy agency in connection with the completion of the Bushehr nuclear power plant by Germany and said: "We are also waiting for that country to take steps to complete this project."

*Japanese Join in Building Steel Complex

91AS0305E London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] A large steel production company in Japan intends, pending the positive results of the studies under way, to take steps to carry out a special plan to build a steel production unit on Qeshm Island. The Japanese media announced the name of the Japanese steel manufacturing company as "Kobe" and added that the steel manufacturing factory and the cost of building this production unit have been estimated at about $1.2 billion. The JAPAN NEWS AGENCY, also reporting from Tokyo some time ago, announced that in addition to the steel production industries of "Kobe," several large Japanese factories have also expressed interest in building steel manufacturing factories in various parts of Iran, including Qeshm Island. KEYHAN, published in the Islamic Republic, also wrote in regard to the possibility of building a steel manufacturing unit on Qeshm: "The Kobe steel manufacturing industry of Japan has mentioned the project to build a steel manufacturing factory on that island, including five steel mills with an annual capacity of 5 million" [as published].

The above-mentioned newspaper added: "The officials of Kobe factory announced that this steel production unit on Qeshm Island will be ready for operation by the year 2000, and the first phase of the project will be operational by 1991."

*Travellers to Japan Said Seeking Employment

91AS0305D London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 4

[Interview with the Japanese ambassador to Tehran by the press last week; date and place not specified]

[Text] Parallel to the spread of economic disorder in the Islamic Republic and the constant rise in unemployment in that country, the rush of job seekers to Japan to find temporary profitable employment is escalating, the publishing media announced that at the present time at least

70 percent of the passengers on Iran Air flights to Japan are job seekers. The officials of the national Iranian airlines (HOMA) announced early last week that tickets to Tokyo have been pre-sold up to late next spring. Despite the long lines in front of the Hotel "Homa" to buy tickets to Japan, on the black market, buyers are prepared to pay up to 15 times the official price (about 150,000 tomans) for such tickets on a flight to Tokyo.

A newspaper in Tehran reporting on the rush of unemployed to Japan looking for employment and to earn money writes: "Outside the Tokyo airport, anyone who safely passes the scrutinizing immigration police will find himself among 40-50 Iranian employment agents, in addition to the occasional Indian and Pakistani agents. Some passengers ask for and soon find agents whose name they have learned from experienced individuals in Iran. The agents in the airport introduce the job seekers to other agents stationed in the city. In short, it costs every Iranian who comes to Japan $300-$400 to find a job. The airport agents and the agent in the next stage, who ultimately are connected with the syndicates of the Japanese employers, make up a large network. This network distributes and controls the imported labor forces from Iran, Pakistan, India, and the Philippines.

3,000 Applicants Travel to Japan Per Week

Officials in charge of selling passenger tickets to Japan announced some time ago that even though HOMA airlines carries 600 passengers per week with two flights, the number of applicants to travel to Japan exceeds 3,000 per week.

Even though the officials of the Japanese foreign ministry announced recently that entry into that country for employment without a visa is illegal, at the present time, there is no requirement for a visa to Japan for a period of three months. For this reason, job seekers have the opportunity to work for three months.

According to available reports from Japan, at the present time, the Japanese immigration police returns to Iran 10 percent of the Iranians who enter the country seeking employment, and they are not allowed to leave the Tokyo Airport.

The reporter of KEYHAN in Tehran believes that the government of Japan in practice supports absorbing the cheap Iranian labor force for employment in hard labor in that country. For this reason, it does not take effective measures to prevent the rush of such workers into its country.

Last week, in a press conference, the Japanese ambassador to Tehran informed the public of the requirements for receiving a work permit in Japan. Pointing out that applicants for employment may apply for a work permit by going to the Japanese embassy in Tehran and submitting their documents, he practically encouraged the Iranian labor force in Iran seeking employment to travel to Japan. The diplomatic representative of Japan in Tehran, responding to the question of why Iranians going to Japan must receive visas through Malaysia, said: "First of all, note that the government of Japan is by no means inclined towards or intending to change the agreement on the abolition of visas between the two countries. Therefore, the content of this agreement has essentially not changed. In regard to why traveling to Japan through Malaysia requires a visa, I think this decision was made with consideration for the interested airline company, and such a request has not been made by the government."

*President Underlines Policy of Collaboration

91AS0305C London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] At the end of "mobilization" week, Khamene'i, Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, and the representatives of the Majles several times emphasized the export of the Islamic revolution to all countries of the world through the mobilization forces. To neutralize the negative effects of this "mobilization" propaganda on the regional level and among Iranian neighbors, on Thursday, among a group of navy officers, Rafsanjani explicitly emphasized: "Our policy is not an adventurous one. We do not consider adventurism in our interests and the interests of the region." He added: "Our policy is absolute calm in the region in order for the region to be able to make use of its resources and make up for its backwardness." Last week, the representatives of the Majles had signed a letter supporting the adventurous policy of exporting the revolution by the mobilization forces.

*Soviet Border Guards Kill One, Wound Two

91AS0305B London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Soviet border guards shot at four Iranians who were intending to illegally enter that country last week. One of them, Ne'mat Mohebbi, was killed and another, Ahmad Ahmadi, was severely wounded.

The Russian officials delivered the two others [as published], Ahmad Saburi and Mirsalam Musavi, along with the corpse of the person killed, to the border officials of Astara in the Aqchay region.

Since traveling to Soviet Azerbaijan is possible for residents of Azarbaijan, the motive of these individuals in trying to illegally cross the border is not yet clear. In the past three months, this was the second incident on the border in the Astara area.

Investigations on how the above-mentioned person was killed continue by the Iranian border guard office.

*Educators Strike Against High Cost of Living

*91AS0305A London KEYHAN in Persian
6 Dec 90 pp 1, 9*

[Text] In order to stop the spread of the strike by the employees of the Ministry of Education to other ministries, in his Friday prayer sermon this week, Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced a five-point plan promising to reduce the pressures on government employees, particularly the 600,000-700,000 educators in the country. However, ignoring Hashemi-Rafsanjani's promises and his five-point plan, the educators refused to go to classes and continued their nation-wide strike.

The educators' strike began on Thursday, 22 November, in Esfahan and gradually spread throughout the country. We published the news of the teachers' strike in Esfahan last week and anticipated that this strike would spread to other provinces as well.

According to reports we have received, last week, following the teachers' strike in the Province of Esfahan, educators in most cities of the country, including Tabriz, Reza'iyyeh, Khuzestan, Kerman, Yazd, and Zahedan, joined this strike and closed the classrooms. In Tehran also a number of schools were scenes of strikes by educators. A report from Tehran indicates that on Monday and Tuesday last week, the students of some of the high schools in Tehran left the classrooms in support of the high-school teachers and assembled and shouted slogans in the streets in front of the schools. According to Tehran KEYHAN, 85 students called rioters by KEYHAN were arrested.

Before the teachers' strike in Esfahan spread to other provinces, Mohammad Hashemi-Rahbari, the deputy minister of education, was dispatched to Esfahan to listen to the requests of the strikers and made promises to them. But he did not succeed in convincing the elementary and high-school teachers to end their strike.

Fear of the teachers' strike spreading to employees of other ministries caused Hashemi-Rafsanjani to personally conduct the Friday prayers this week. In the second Friday prayer sermon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the dire living situation of government employees, particularly teachers, and, confessing to the regime's failure to carry out its duty in regard to government employees, he said:

"During the war, in the past 10 or 12 years, we were unable to attend to the salaries of the government employees, and the salaries of those who work for the government have not kept up with inflation. Naturally, the lives of our salaried personnel have on the whole been under pressure. Some have lived on borrowed money and for some living was difficult." He then emphasized the situation of teachers and said:

"The teachers especially, who make up one of the major government forces, numbering between 600,000 and 700,000, make a meager living. Of course, the government has tried to reduce the pressure somewhat by giving them overtime, coupons, and the like, but these actions do not create a balance. This kind of aid only reduces the pressures somewhat."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then began giving promises to government employees and teachers and said:

"Last year, when the five-year plan was ratified, we included a policy in the plan in regard to government employees, which is that at the end of the plan what they receive should match the living expenses of an average family."

The president confessed that the government at the present time is unable to improve the living conditions of the teachers because, due to the shortages of production and supplies in the country, a sudden increase in employee salaries will cause severe inflation. In this regard, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

"This is not a task that can be done all at once in our country, when we have been unable to keep government employee salaries up with inflation in 11 years. If we make a rapid move, the harm will mostly affect the salary earners, because, supposing that we calculate that they need so much and their salaries should suddenly reach this level. We would pour hundreds of millions of tomans into the society, this money would end up in the market place and high prices would reach a point that whatever they are given would be taken away from them and they would gain nothing. In other words, inflation suddenly would increase."

Then, he began giving promises and announced a five-point plan to create a balance between the salaries of government employees and the cost-of-living increase.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

We have planned to do two or three things at the same time:

1. Gradually increase salaries
2. Grant tax exemptions at a certain level
3. Take steps to provide housing for those who have no housing and have problems in regard to housing
4. Increase the amount of goods in the society so that as their salaries increase, there will always be goods available on the market so that there is no pressure on the market
5. Along with these, continue subsidies as long as needed.

Rafsanjani added:

"If we are able to advance the plan in this way, that is, increase the earnings of the government employees completely to reach a balance, the living problems of the employees will be solved."

To appease the teachers, Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced that the supreme national administrative council has approved the general points of the draft of the bill on the system for coordinating the payment of salaries to government employees.

Considering that the supreme national administrative council is no more than two weeks old, it is clear that

Rafsanjani, due to his anxiety about the situation, has hastily prepared this bill and presented it to the supreme administrative council.

Communique of Reza Pahlavi's Office

Meanwhile, the office of Reza Pahlavi, the king of Iran, also issued a communique verifying the reports on the teachers' strike in various parts of the country and declared its support for the rightful demands with regard to the regime of the Islamic Republic.

The communique states that Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his government are incapable of carrying out such promises and will be unable to put the national economy in order and improve the living conditions of the hard-working employees and oppressed teachers of the country. The communique of the office of Reza Pahlavi emphasizes that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's promises are merely the result of fear of the spread of the teachers' strike, and he knows that the regime is taking the country to further economic and social hardship every day.

Communique of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization

The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization issued a communique this Friday reporting the strikes by the teachers in various provinces and announced that in the technical and public schools of Reza'iyyeh, the students engaged in fights with the security forces of the regime, and a number of students were killed and 60 students were wounded in clashes with guards. According to a report by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, 37 persons were injured in the attack of the guards against the striking teachers and students in Zahedan.

The same report, based on information from within the regime, states that the regime is extremely concerned about the spread of the strike to other strata of the society, including the merchants. The report adds: "In the past few days, the bazaars of Shiraz and Zarrinshahr were on strike, and all stores were closed. In Esfahan, too, the anti-regime demonstrations had reached the bazaar in that city."

As we reported last week briefly about the teachers' strike in Esfahan, the teachers' strike is a protest against the severe increase in the cost of living throughout the county and also the chaos in schools and bad working conditions. Many teachers pay nearly 60 percent of their salary for housing and rental fees, and the remainder of their salary is not sufficient for their most basic needs.

The increase in the price of government services such as water, electricity, telephone, transportation, and health and treatment, and the increase in the price of such necessities as food and clothing is so rapid that if employee salaries were doubled, they would still be unable to eke out a living.

An economic expert who follows the changes in the condition in Iran said in answer to our question: "Undoubtedly, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's promises are empty and baseless. Despite the increase in the price of oil and the increase in exports, the economic problems in Iran are so severe that such a government will never be able to eliminate these problems." This person added: "If rapid, overall, fundamental changes, particularly in terms of administration and entrusting the affairs to experts and the dismissal of incompetent and extremist individuals, do not take place, conditions will worsen and the Islamic regime will face an explosion in the society." He considered the situation of foreign currency and the government foreign currency policy an example of the failure of the policies of the regime and said: "The rate of foreign currency, which was supposed to be stabilized with the new policy of the regime, was regularly increasing, and despite the huge revenues from the increase in the price of oil and the increase in crude oil exports, the regime has not even been able to stabilize the foreign currency rate." This same expert projected "a bad fate" for the regime and said that even if this strike does subside, events will follow.

Read the report on the steady increase in the cost of living in this issue of KEYHAN.

*Seminaries Exempted From Custom Duties

91AS0305K London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] The Majles began examining a proposal to exempt from customs duties goods imported for seminaries! Up to a few years ago, the seminaries were known for being simple and devoid of luxuries. All their possessions and furniture consisted of a few cotton rugs and straw mats, beds, simple cooking utensils, books and paper. As a result of the Islamic revolution, they have acquired such complex activities and important transactions and relations with foreign countries that they have found the need for customs duties exemptions for the import of the goods they need with a ratification of a law. The exemption of the seminaries from the payment of customs duties is being discussed in the Majles while the regime is still pursuing "self-sufficiency" and minimizing dependence on other countries!

*Reconstruction of Abadan Airport Planned

91AS0305I London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 4

[Interview with the deputy chief of the national airlines by reporters; date and place not specified]

[Text] With the completion of the international airport in Abadan, numerous flights of various airlines to this airport will resume. This statement was made some time ago by the operational deputy chief of the national airlines to reporters and media representatives. Announcing that soon the completion of the reconstruction of the observation tower and the terminal of Abadan Airport will be carried out in two phases, he told reporters that the reconstruction budget of the airport is 100 million rials, which unfortunately has not yet been absorbed. The operational deputy of the national airlines also announced that the reconstruction of Ahvaz airport also will begin in the second half of Azar [22 November-21 December] this year, and when in operation, HOMA airplanes will resume their flights to that city.

According to available reports from Abadan early last week, after 10 years, the first non-military airplane carrying officials of the national airlines and officials of Khuzestan Province landed at Abadan International Airport.

Pakistan

President, Turkish Foreign Minister Discuss Gulf

BK0301153291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Alptemocin called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad this evening. They discussed the situation in the Gulf and expressed the view that war should be avoided because it will prove destructive for the region. It was also emphasized that member nations [Iran, Pakistan and Turkey] of the Economic Cooperation Organization should try for a peaceful solution of the crisis.

Meets Pakistani Counterpart

BK0401151791 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] At a meeting in Islamabad today the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Turkey discussed various steps for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. The Pakistani delegation led by Sahabzada Yaqub Khan apprised the Turkish delegation led by Ahmet Alptemocin of Pakistan's relations with the countries of the region. Yaqub Khan made a special reference to the atrocities committed by the Indian troops on the Kashmiri Muslims and to Pakistan's concern over the anti-Muslim riots in India. He also apprised the Turkish foreign minister of the latest situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan's efforts for a quick political solution to the issue. Both sides also discussed steps to improve their bilateral relations and further promote mutual cooperation in various fields.

Pakistan, Iran, Turkey Conduct Meeting on Gulf

BK0301163291 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey have called for total withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and full restoration of the independence and sovereignty of that country in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] declaration adopted in Cairo. The three countries have asked the secretary general of the ICO to undertake every conceivable effort, including feasibility of convening an emergency meeting, to promote a peaceful solution of the crisis. This was stated in a joint statement issued at the end of the one-day trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of these countries in Islamabad this evening.

The statement said the three foreign ministers surveyed the grave situation in the Gulf and agreed that an armed conflict would be disastrous for the international community in general, and the region and Islamic ummah [community] in particular. They appealed to Iraq to implement resolutions of the UN Security Council and the declaration of ICO in the spirit of Islamic solidarity by withdrawing unconditionally from Kuwait in order to save the region from a major confrontation.

Inaugurating their meeting, the Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif urged leaders of the Muslim ummah to sink their differences and make concerted efforts to counter the designs of hostile forces. He referred to major problems being faced by the ummah, including Kuwait, Kashmir and Afghanistan. The prime minister stressed the need for utmost efforts by the international community for a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis. He said the security of the Gulf must be the responsibility of the countries of the region. The member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Economic Cooperation Organization could hold consultation on increased cooperation to ensure security of the area.

Referring to the situation in occupied Kashmir, the prime minister said Kashmiris are waging struggle against Indian occupation. He said Pakistan and indeed the entire Islamic world cannot remain indifferent to the killings and repression in held Kashmir.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif said there is also deep concern in the Muslim world over the wave of anti-Muslim riots in India instigated by extremist organizations. He said it is essential for the Islamic world to take a united stand against countries which deny protection and fundamental rights to their Muslim minorities.

About Afghanistan, the prime minister said despite withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country, the conflict continues there. A government acceptable to the Afghan people has to be established and peace restored in the war-ravaged country so that more than five million Afghan refugees could return to their homes in safety.

In his opening remarks the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, said the three countries have abiding interest in peace, security, and stability of the region.

Joint Statement Issued

BK0401094691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey have demanded the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. This demand was made in a joint statement issued in Islamabad yesterday evening at the end of the foreign ministers meeting of the three countries. [passage omitted]

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad yesterday evening that the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey have agreed that it is the sole responsibility of the countries of the Gulf region to establish a system for their security. The three countries, which are the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, have agreed to make the organization effective. The forthcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of these countries will be held in Tehran in April.

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey are making efforts to get all parties concerned with the Gulf crisis to hold talks for a peaceful solution to the issue. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad yesterday before his departure for Tehran, he said the three countries believe in a peaceful solution to the crisis, as the Muslims of the world are worried over the outcome of a possible war. He said war will be disastrous to the Iraqi people and will affect other countries of the region as well.

Bhutto To Support Steps Government Takes in Gulf

BK0301153491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, the opposition leader in the National Assembly, Benazir Bhutto, said the People's Democratic Alliance will support all steps the government takes to end the Gulf dispute. She proposed the convening of a meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization so as to work out a practical formula to end the Gulf crisis.

'Lack of Consensus' Seen To Enact Islamic Law

BK0401004691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 3 (AFP)—The Pakistani government's effort to steer through parliament a bill enforcing Islamic law, or shariah, in the country has been waylaid by lack of consensus, informed sources said Thursday.

Several legislators in the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) have voiced bitter opposition to a draft prepared by a government-appointed committee, forcing postponement of plans to table it in the national assembly, they said.

A federal minister who heads the committee Thursday retracted his statement made the previous day that a shariah bill would be moved this month in the National Assembly, which terminated its winter session abruptly.

Quoted by official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP), Maulana Abdul Sattar Niazi, minister for local government and rural development, said it had now been decided to first introduce the bill in the senate.

The sudden change of plans came after a report by the APP late Wednesday that a meeting of IJI deputies chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had endorsed introducing the bill to the assembly.

The sources said the critics in the ruling alliance, pressing for fundamental amendments in the draft, argued that the mullahs, or orthodox clerics, only wanted to establish their supremacy.

The bill would make sharia the supreme law of the land, giving ulema (Moslem scholars) the power to review court decisions.

Not only was the bill in conflict with the constitution, it would also open a pandora's box of legal, sectarian, economic and administrative complications, the critics emphasized at an IJI meeting, the sources said.

"The shariah bill will never get through the parliament," a prominent IJI senator, Pir Mardan Shah Pagara, said in a statement published Thursday, adding that "it is controversial and cannot be accepted by the people."

Abdul Wali Khan, chief of Awami National Party, an IJI ally, also voiced strong opposition.

But Mr. Niazi, in his latest statement, stressed that the government remained "firmly committed" to shariah enforcement and the bill would be brought before the National Assembly at the next session after endorsement by the senate.

Pakistan's Shi'ite Moslem minority—about 20 per cent of the country's 110 million population, say any such bill should incorporate their religious beliefs.

Women's rights groups also oppose a sharia bill.

Minister Answers Senate on Indian Missile Program

BK2412091290 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said Pakistan is taking practical steps to maintain and strengthen its defense preparedness to meet the challenges and threats posed to its security. He was making a statement in Senate today on an adjournment motion moved by Professor Khurshid Ahmed regarding Indian missile program and its implications for Pakistan. He said we are viewing with concern India's (?reported) missile development activity which is a grave threat not only to the security of Pakistan, but also to regional and international peace and stability as well.

The foreign minister assured that the government was conscious of its responsibilities to maintain a deterrent capability and the armed forces were fully alive to the need to adopt counter measures.

After statement by the foreign minister, the mover did not press the motion on the assurance that the foreign minister will consult the Ministry of Defense as to how to debate the issue in more details in the house.

Professor Khurshid Ahmed also did not press another adjournment motion after the statement of Sahabzada Yaqub Khan that no important documents relating to defense and security of Pakistan were found missing from the Foreign Office. The chair [speaker] asked the standing committee on information and broadcasting of the house to check the news items in question with the newspapers which carried it.

Muslim League Adopts Resolution on Various Issues

BK3012150290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Addressing the Pakistan Muslim League convention in connection with the celebration of its 85th founding day in Lahore this afternoon, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed his government's determination to establish justice and discipline in all ranks and to eliminate corruption, lawlessness, and nepotism so as to make Pakistan strong and prosperous. He said his government will convert the dreams of Father of the Nation Mohammad Ali Jinnah into reality and establish a true Islamic, welfare, and democratic society in Pakistan.

The convention adopted a unanimous resolution lauding the Pakistan Government for its courageous stand on the suspension of U.S. aid. The resolution also expressed full support and cooperation for the prime minister in realizing the objective of self-reliance and keeping aloft national dignity and honor. The resolution also called upon the government not to accept conditional aid, to uncompromisingly continue its nuclear program, and not to let any foreign power interfere in our internal affairs.

The resolution also expressed deep sorrow, anguish, and regrets over the Indian Government's failure to protect the holy places and the life and property of Muslims in India.

The convention appreciated the valiant struggle of freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir as they continue to realize their right of self-determination. It also paid tribute to the Afghan mujahidin for their struggle.

The convention also welcomed the government's decision to send Pakistani troops, as requested by Saudi Arabia, to defend the holy places. It also appealed to Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait and desist from war as it will prove disastrous.

The resolution adopted at the convention took note of the fact that there is a growing feeling of a need to establish an Islamic force for the protection and security of the holy places in the Gulf.

Court Rejects Bail for Bhutto's Husband

BK3112153690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] A division bench of the Sindh High Court rejected the bail application of a National Assembly member, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari [Benazir Bhutto's husband], in the famous case of kidnapping Ghulam Hussain Unnar and extorting money from him. The bench was comprised of the chief justice, Mr. Justice Saeeduzzamman Siddiqui, and Mr. Justice Imami Ali Kazi. The court also dismissed bail applications from two other defendants, Dr. Babbar Jamali and Mr. Mir Abbassi. The bench rejected the bail applications while directing the trial court to complete the hearing of the case within the next two months. The court also directed that the applicants be allowed to file fresh bail applications.

Scientist Says Nuclear Energy Developed Indigenously

BK0201112491 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Jan 91 p 4

[By our staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Karachi, Jan 1—Nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan said on Tuesday Pakistan has emerged on the world map with the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

He was delivering a memorial lecture on Major Abbasi Shaheed at the fifth annual symposium of Abbasi Shaheed Hospital here.

Dr Qadeer said despite vicious propaganda against Pakistan "we continued our modest efforts for making Kahuta plant a success." He said Pakistan was now among six or seven countries which had acquired nuclear technology for their development.

Dr Qadeer said the idea of Kahuta plant was conceived, developed, commissioned and operated by Pakistani scientists with their hard work and conviction without seeeking any help from any foreign country.

He said the country had no scarcity of food, cotton and wheat. The need was to prevent the 30 per cent wastage of wheat and 25 per cent of cotton bales at ports and railway stations by irresponsible persons.

He said science has contributed a lot in the field of medicines communication, transport, energy, electronics, etc, which, if harnessed properly, could be of immense value. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

LTTE-Proposed Truce With Government Reported

Foreign Diplomatic Help Sought

BK2812085690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Text] Colombo, Dec 28 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrillas locked in combat with government forces are ready for an internationally backed ceasefire, a Tamil mediator said Friday as fresh violence left 47 more dead.

The self-appointed mediator, Arulappu Arulpragasam, said he had been talking to both the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan Government to seek a fresh solution to end fighting.

He told reporters here that the Tiger guerrillas were prepared to observe a truce and had called for "greater involvement of Canada" in resolving the country's dragging civil war in the Tamil-majority northeast.

He did not specify why the Tigers were agreeable to end fighting, but said his role as a mediator was made difficult "because of the LTTE's lack of credibility."

The Tigers abruptly ended 14 months of peace talks with the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa to resume their guerrilla campaign on June 11 for a separate state for the island's two million Tamil minority.

Some 878 security personnel are among the more than 5,300 people who have died in fighting since June 11.

LTTE activists Friday set off a powerful land mine at Bakpitiyawa village in eastern Ampara district and killed five soldiers and a policeman and four civilians accompanying them, police in the area said.

The blast came hours after the air force bombed and destroyed a suspected LTTE hideout in Atchuveli village in the LTTE-dominated northern Jaffna Peninsula, killing at least 20 militants, officials here said.

A government military spokesman said nine more LTTE activists were killed in separate incidents in the northeast.

The LTTE for its part, said that it killed eight soldiers in an attack on a military camp in Elephant Pass, at the main entry point to the Jaffna Peninsula.

Mr. Arulpragasam, a former guerrilla of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), a former LTTE ally, said the LTTE had asked him to seek "greater Canadian involvement" and help from Australia, Japan, Britain and India.

These countries had shown an interest in establishing peace in Sri Lanka, he said without elaborating.

"I have spoken to the ambassadors of these countries and they are awaiting a response from their governments. They can be useful in talking to the President (Mr. Premadasa) to arrange a date for the ceasefire," he said.

He said he had talks with the LTTE's deputy leader Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah and another LTTE top runger, Yogaratnam Yogi, in October and November and met with an unnamed "very senior official" in early December to discuss the proposed truce.

Colombo had not yet responded and Mr. Arulpragasam said he expected a reply "in a week or two."

His remarks came a day after Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne ruled out talks with the Tigers and vowed to "liquidate the LTTE" to bring peace in the new year.

Mr. Arulpragasam said the government would face problems in trying to sell the idea of fresh talks with the LTTE to the Sinhalese majority because of the LTTE's lack of credibility. However, he said a solution must be found in the interest of peace and to end the sufferings of civilians living in battle zones of the northeast.

"Apart from the willingness to stop fighting, the LTTE has indicated that they would be prepared to restart talks with the government if such talks lead to a permanent merger of the northern and eastern province," Mr. Arulpragasam said.

The linking of the Tamil-majority north with the multiethnic eastern region is strongly opposed by the Sinhalese community, while the second largest minority, the Moslems, are divided over the issue.

The Tigers are also renewing their demand for the repeal of the sixth amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution which disavows separatism, Mr. Arulpragasam said.

Army Stops Offensive Operations

BK0101093691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan Army has stopped offensive action against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] following the declaration of cease-fire by the militants from midnight last night. Our Colombo correspondent quotes military sources as saying that this is in the light of the government's decision to study all the implications of the LTTE offer. He understands President Premadasa is expected to give out the government's view tomorrow when he addresses the people of Sri Lanka from Kandy on the second anniversary of his assuming office.

Government Needs Three Days

BK0201123391 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa says that although the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] expected a response from the government immediately to its unilateral declaration of the cease-fire, the government needed at least a period of three days to consider the move. He made the statement when he met the mahanayakas [Buddhist clerics] of the Malowatta and Askiriya chapters in Kandy last afternoon. He said before the government responded to this announcement, it had to consult recognized political parties and the public. He welcomed the views of the mahasangha [Buddhist religious organization].

The president said that government had discussions for nearly 14 months with the LTTE to wipe out terror and establish peace in the north and the east. The government agreed to discussions with the LTTE because it wished to resolve the problems through peaceful means as it had no desire for a military solution. However, they started attacking army camps and police stations. There were no dangerous repercussions as a result of these attacks, because the people as well as foreign nations had made proper evaluation of the situation. The president added that he was deeply appreciative of the cooperation extended by other political parties at this time. Our special correspondent says large crowds were gathering in Kandy for the commemorative ceremonies. Special transport services are operating for the convenience of the public.

Spokesman Says Tamils Break Truce

BK0201042091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0405 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Colombo, Jan 2 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas Wednesday broke their unilateral ceasefire with a mortar attack on an army camp in northern Sri Lanka, drawing fire from security forces, a military spokesman here said.

Activists of the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) mounted a barrage of mortar and small arms fire on Kadduwana Army Camp in Jaffna Peninsula early Wednesday, the spokesman said.

He said there were no casualties among the troops, who successfully retaliated. It was the first major incident of violence since the LTTE announced its unilateral ceasefire from the new year.

The militants also fired small arms at the main military camp at the entrance to Jaffna in Elephant Pass, a few hours after the ceasefire went into effect, the spokesman said, adding that it was a minor incident without casualties.

"Apart from these two incidents, the truce seems to be holding. We are watching the situation very carefully," the spokesman said.

The government had said it needed three days to determine the genuineness of the LTTE offer, but troops would not go on "offensive operations" against the Tigers during this period.

The LTTE said its open-ended ceasefire from January 1 was unconditional and aimed at allowing relief work to be carried out in the strife-torn areas.

It also said the offer was a gesture of goodwill "to promote peace and to create conditions of normality in Tamil Eelam." But the LTTE move has provoked suspicion that it is merely in order to regroup and rearm.

After holding 14 months of peace talks with Colombo, the Tigers last June relaunched their separatist war against the government to carve out an independent state called Eelam in the island's Tamil-dominated northeast.

Since then, more than 5,250 people have died in bitter fighting.

Opposition Wants LTTE Disarmed

BK0301143291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Colombo, Jan 3 (AFP)—Sri Lankan opposition parties insisted Thursday that Tamil guerrillas be disarmed before they would hold any talks with President Ranasinghe Premadasa on a truce offer from the rebels.

Six groups led by the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party said they would not attend a meeting called by Mr. Premadasa Thursday to seek their views on the ceasefire offered by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The truce announced by the LTTE in the island's Tamil-dominated northeast appeared by and large to be holding despite at least three violations, a military spokesman here said, as the cease-fire entered its third day.

The opposition said they wanted the government to ensure that the Tigers respected the unitary character of the country and allowed other political parties to function in the war-ravaged northeast.

They also demanded that the civil administration be restored in the northeast and that LTTE cadres be disarmed.

Bernard Soysa, leader of the leftist Lanka Sama Samaja (Equal Society Party), said it was pointless talking to Mr. Premadasa without the LTTE agreeing to what he described as a "prerequisite for a meaningful dialogue."

"The government must take its share of blame for the current situation. They had secret talks with the LTTE during which arms were restored to the Tigers," Mr. Soysa said.

He said his party welcomed the LTTE truce offer as a positive development that could lead to negotiations but the Tigers should first satisfy the opposition's demands.

"The main thing is that we want the Tigers to disarm and respect the democratic rights of other minorities and political parties. Otherwise there cannot be peace," he said.

Political observers said the opposition demands, shared by many in the majority Sinhalese community and in the security forces, would put more pressure on the president as he decides whether to accept the truce offer.

Some 5,250 people have died since the Tigers broke off 14 months of talks with the government June 11 and resumed their military campaign.

The joint opposition response to Mr. Premadasa's invitation was conveyed in a letter spelling out their conditions for peace in Sri Lanka's northeast.

Mr. Premadasa for his part had said Tuesday that the government was being cautious in its response to the LTTE's peace overture "because the Tigers had once betrayed the trust reposed in them."

Meanwhile, a rival Tamil group said here that they too were demanding a complete surrender of arms by the LTTE and cautioned the government against accepting the Tiger ceasefire.

Douglas Devananda, leader of the Eelam Peoples Democratic Party (EPDP), said they did not welcome the ceasefire but were ready to support whatever decision the government reached "in the national interest."

He warned that the LTTE's unilateral truce was aimed at reorganising and strengthening its scattered forces for "a massive offensive against the government."

The Tigers have said the ceasefire was to relieve the suffering of Tamils in the northeast by allowing relief work to be carried out in the area.

More on Operations Suspension

BK0401094191 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0725 GMT 4 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Negotiations with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will recommence with a declaration by the LTTE to lay down arms at a future date, said Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne at the cabinet news briefing today.

He said the government welcomes the unilateral declaration of ceasefire by the LTTE and as an interim measure decided to suspend operations for a period of seven days from midnight, Thursday, 3 January.

At the end of the seven days the government will review the situation and further extend the period of suspension of operations with pre-conditions.

In answer to a question as to why the government deviated from its earlier stand, Mr. Wijeratne said the government is never naive in dealing with its own citizens. We don't want to make it difficult for the LTTE to get back to negotiations.

In answer to another question as to why the LTTE had taken the unilateral ceasefire option, the minister of plantations and minister of state for defence said, "They may have very good reasons".

Security forces however will continue routine patrol and conduct aerial reconnaissance for any possible build-up. They would not "at the moment" extend the area under their control, Mr. Wijeratne said.

He said there had been some minor violations by the LTTE and any violations in future will be dealt with effectively.

The government is aware of a Tamil home guard unit being formed by the LTTE from [words indistinct] for the Eelam struggle. Citizens between 20 and 35 years of age are called for enlistment. The recruits will be given a 15-day training in weaponry and would be put on guard duty of three hour duration shifts round the clock. This was a violation and the government will take it up at the discussions.

TELO Wants Shekhar To Mediate Cadre Release

BK2612145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization—TELO—today appealed to the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, to intervene and secure the release of 400 of its members arrested by the Tamil Nadu government. Disclosing this in Colombo, the TELO general secretary, Mr. G. Karunakaran, said a letter to this effect has been handed over to the acting Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka.